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# THE NONCONFORMIST.

"The dissidence of dissent and the protestantism of the protestant religion."

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## Eccliaastical Affairs.

### ACTION! ACTION! ACTION!

THE earnest friends of the projected movement for the separation of the church from the state, are now furnished with an opportunity of giving play to their zeal. That they will not allow it to slip away unimproved, we have already some cheering pledges. The resolutions passed by the dissenting "deputies," advertised in another column—the unanimity and enthusiasm displayed at the public meeting, held on Wednesday last, at the London Tavern, a short report of which we have given elsewhere—the published intentions of the East London Religious Liberty Society—and the information which has reached us from private sources—confirm our original impression that beneath the appearance of apathy which thinly covers the surface of the dissenting world, there exists a rich and solid substratum of virgin soil, which needs only to be broken up, in order to yield an abundant harvest to the husbandman. This soil, no preceding agitation has disturbed: the Factories Education bill served but to lay it bare to public view. It required something weightier, more durable, more searching, to turn it up from its depths, and to prepare it for receiving the precious seed of truth. The Anti-state-church Conference will answer this purpose—will act as the ploughshare, whose rough but friendly force was needed, to convert latent energy to profitable account. The work is begun under happy auspices: be it our grateful duty to aid its progress!

Our readers will, we trust, forgive us, if our deep anxiety for the success of this project hurries us beyond the limits which divide zeal from presumption. We feel impelled, at this critical juncture, to remind them of their individual responsibility. Should we, in doing so, appear to utter our thoughts in a tone of dogmatism, or enforce what we take to be duty with too much pertinacity, we must plead as our apology, and, we hope, not vainly, the magnitude of the interests at stake, the close relationship between the furtherance of those interests and the success of the contemplated conference, and the dependence of that success upon individual action.

We have before now, and that not seldom, attempted to place before our readers the great object of the movement now so happily commenced. We must repeat it—and never before have we so ardently coveted the power of addressing our friends in "words that burn." What, then, is the ultimate scope of this agitation? What end does it seek to accomplish? Is the enterprise one worthy of enlisting the anxieties, the prayers, the self-sacrifice, the exertions, of truly Christian men? If to restore divine truth to its appropriate position, to take it out of those hands which employ it only as a tool for the purposes of political party, to detach it from the neutralising influences by which it has been surrounded by state artifice, to cleanse it from all adhesions of parliamentary and magisterial worldliness, and cause it to shine forth in its own undimmed and native lustre—if to reconduct the church, as the incarnation of that truth, to the sphere of spirituality assigned to her by her Lord, no longer now tricked out in meretricious ornaments, but arrayed in primitive simplicity, and beauteous in her own moral loveliness—if to return to God's plan of producing fealty to Himself, and of upholding his right to rule in human hearts, in preference to the plausible, but superficial and pernicious, plans of statesmen, whose views are chalked out to meet present emer-

gencies, and are bounded by the narrow limits of time—if to ensure destruction to the anomaly of committing the eternal interests of others to the keeping of men who, as a body, are careless of their own, and of constituting them legislators for the church, whose office, equally with their tastes, identifies them with the world—if to dry up the most prolific source of nominalism and mere ritualism, and thereby to dispel from the minds of myriads the fatal delusion, that Christianity is a profession, but not a power—if, in fine, to throw Christian willinghood upon its own inexhaustible resources, to remove out of its path its most serious obstruction, to brace it up for exertion commensurate with the spiritual wants of the empire, and to send it forth untrammelled by human law, and unchecked by legislative arrangements, to grapple with the consciences of men, and to woo and win their hearts—if these and such-like objects be not worthy of serious, determined, persevering, energetic pursuit, we crave to be informed what is. Never, since the original promulgation of God's truth, has nobler enterprise courted devout attention. Its triumph, we verily believe, would be a greater gain to the world than that of the reformation itself, inasmuch as it would do effectually what that great work only partially accomplished.

Such, then, is the vast, the unspeakably momentous object which now appeals to British dissenters for countenance and aid. The Anti-state-church Conference is proposed as a means to that end. It is quite obvious that state-churches can only be swept away by violent revolution, or by a current of public opinion broad and deep, such as this country has never before witnessed. All good men must desire that the event may be brought about by the latter. But the creation of public opinion presupposes a lengthened course of earnest, judicious, and persevering effort—and this course of effort must be solemnly and deliberately entered upon by dissenters. A conference has been summoned with an express view to this. Be it, or be it not, the wisest and most natural method of commencing so arduous an undertaking—and on this head, as our readers know, we, at least, have no misgivings—it is certain that its success or failure will go far to promote or to retard the object in view. Nonconformists can, if they are so disposed, make it tell with formidable weight against church and state alliance. It will be an instrument for good or for evil according as they choose to deal with it. If it should be composed of representatives, at all approaching in number, in intelligence, in decision, and in temper, what the interests at stake would seem to require—if its proceedings should be marked, as we doubt not they will be, by wisdom and unity—and if it should, as we anticipate it will, lay a solid foundation for future exertion in this cause—it is impossible to calculate what amount of moral influence it would exert, or how entirely it might change the whole aspect of the controversy. And the effect may be of an opposite character. Thinness of attendance, violence of speech, inappropriateness of demeanour, and imbecility of counsel, may convert it into an obstacle to the very cause it is intended to promote. It cannot seriously fail without inflicting injury upon the prospects of religious freedom—it cannot succeed without greatly advancing them.

Under these circumstances we deem ourselves warranted in setting before our readers their individual responsibility. Not England merely, but the world, "expects every man to do his duty." Each one has his sphere of influence; and none will be absolved from blame, should the present movement fail of meeting adequate support, unless he has exerted that influence to its utmost. In how many instances will the prompt action of but two or three secure the appointment of efficient representatives! Where there is no hope of obtaining a congregational election, and where a public meeting would be impracticable, it may yet be a matter of little difficulty to get a hundred signatures to a certificate of appointment. Nor is it absolutely necessary, although unquestionably it is desirable, to send men from the district in which the constituents may reside. Parties unable to bear that expense may appoint residents in the metropolis to attend and represent them; and where they are at a loss, from ignorance of suitable individuals, we imagine they need only consult the committee in order to receive the requisite sugges-

tions. It is, however, high time to act. What is done should be done immediately. The completeness of arrangements will greatly depend upon the early election of all the delegates. To all, therefore, who wish well to the end we would address the language of exhortation. Let no man place his sole reliance upon others—let each act as though success depended upon himself. Many have spoken, written, or argued in favour of this plan, and have thus contributed to ripen opinion, until it has been taken as the basis of a practical movement. Now comes the question, "What amount of action will such men give with a view to its success?" We do not underrate the first service they have rendered, but it will only prove of importance as it is followed up by the last. Let every sincere non-conformist, then, be at his post, and resolve forthwith that he will have a voice in the election of a delegate. Let him look difficulties in the face, and make up his mind to conquer them. One determined will may clear the way for the acquiescence of many which have hitherto been undecided. At all events, nothing is gained by idle regrets. Wherever the question is asked, in reference to this matter, "What is our duty?"—the reply may be given in the language of the Athenian orator, "Action—action—action!"

## THE ANTI-STATE-CHURCH CONFERENCE.

### FIRST APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES.

A public meeting of the friends of Religious Liberty was held on Wednesday evening last, pursuant to advertisement, in the large room of the London Tavern, Bishopsgate street, to consider the necessity for an aggressive movement for the separation of church and state; to express approval of the Anti-state-church Conference; and to appoint two representatives to the same. The meeting was convened by the committee of the Metropolitan Anti-state-church Association, a society whose name and proceedings must ere this be familiar to most of our readers. Long before the time for commencing the proceedings, the room was crowded with a most respectable auditory, and a large number of persons were unable to obtain admittance. Dr Cox was called to the chair, and was supported by several members of the executive committee appointed to prepare for the conference, various dissenting ministers and many influential dissenters of the metropolis. Among gentlemen on the platform we observed Dr Bowring, M.P., Dr Price, F. Clark, Esq., Thomas Hall, Esq., Edward Colman, Esq., John Hooper, Esq., J. C. Evans, Esq., J. M. Hare, Esq., W. H. Ashurst, Esq., T. Roberts, Esq., J. Warrington, Esq., Dr Epps, Dr Oxley, the following ministers—Messrs C. Stovel, W. Forster, W. Aveling, and a considerable number of students from our dissenting colleges. Letters approving of the objects of the meeting had been received by the secretaries from W. S. Crawford, Esq., M.P., J. S. Trelawny, Esq., M.P., and several dissenting ministers, among whom were Dr Hutton, Dr J. P. Smith, Dr Jenkyn, Messrs Richards, Aldis, S. Green, A. J. Morris, and J. Carlile.

The meeting was all that could be desired. From the commencement of the proceedings to the close at half-past ten o'clock, the most marked attention was paid to the several speakers. But one spirit seemed to animate all present, while the enthusiasm with which every allusion to an aggressive movement against ecclesiastical establishments, and especially every reference to the proposed Anti-state-church Conference, was received, proves that no small number of the dissenters of the metropolis are quite prepared to commence a serious movement for the separation of church and state. The speeches, too, were in happy keeping with the enthusiasm of the audience. Each speaker took his stand upon the high ground of principle, and gave free utterance to his views on the subject before them. There were no symptoms of a shrinking disposition, or urging of specious objections, or allusions to selfish consideration. Both the audience and the speakers were evidently in earnest. We have scarcely ever attended a meeting of a similar nature, the general tone of which was of so healthy and elevated a character. We regret that our limits will not allow of our giving more than a brief outline of the addresses delivered, more especially as several of them were of a very eloquent and impressive character. The first public meeting on the subject of the proposed conference has turned out well. Let the example be generally followed, and there will be little doubt of the success of the approaching Conference.

The CHAIRMAN, in commencing the business of the evening, said he was sensible of the honour conferred upon him in being invited to preside over a meeting so distinguished for its numbers and respectability. On looking at the designation of the society convening the meeting, he saw it was called "The Metropolitan Anti-

state-church Association;" and he greatly approved of its purpose and design. It was not an anti-church association, either in the popular or ecclesiastical sense of that term, or, for one, would not concur with it. It did not seek to destroy the ecclesiastical edifices of our land, neither did it set itself in array against episcopacy. Let episcopalians enjoy their opinions; let us all think and let think. It was called an Anti-state-church Association, not an anti-state association, although our opponents sought to represent this as our aim. From first to last, the nonconformists of Great Britain had been the foremost to sustain the family now on the throne, had ever been obedient to the laws of the realm, and been the constant friends of public order. It was not against any particular church, as such, that they were now arrayed in hostility; but against that unholy system—a state church. It was the alliance of the church with the state against which they solemnly protested. The learned doctor then ably argued the question of establishments, pointing out their injurious effects upon the cause of truth. He said that as they were engaged in a serious and important undertaking, it ought not to be entered upon with precipitancy. Truth demanded calmness; and its interests should be sought in a dignified way, and in a proper spirit. He looked forward with much interest to the holding of another and more comprehensive meeting—a conference of the friends of religious liberty [cheers]—the object of which would be to exhibit the tremendous evils of a state church, and to organise a directly aggressive movement, to dissolve the connexion now subsisting between the church and the state. They must no longer be contented to act on the defensive; this policy has been our ruin. They had been satisfied to rouse themselves to resistance when a Sir Robert This, or Sir James That [hear, hear] had attempted to trample on their rights. Let our course now be, to seek the removal of the monster grievance itself. To enlighten the public mind, and to diffuse a knowledge of our great principles, was the present and solemn duty of every nonconformist. He could not help expressing the great satisfaction that he felt at seeing the young ministry of their dissenting communities manifesting their approbation of the principles which they maintained. He looked forward to a period when they would occupy an important station in the land, and represent, to the rising generation, the advantages derivable from the glorious principles which they advocated [cheers]. The doctor was much applauded during his eloquent address, and sat down amidst loud cheering.

Dr BOWRING, M.P., on rising to move the first resolution (for which, and the subsequent ones, see advertisement), said, that feeling the great movement now commenced by the dissenters to be pregnant with all-important consequences, he felt his position to be one of great responsibility. The subject was one of gravity, and ought not to be approached in a passionate or excited spirit. The established church of this land had in its hands accumulated millions of national wealth, and it was high time to inquire how she had discharged her duty. The state church must be looked at in reference to the two great divisions of society, the few who but rule, and the many who were called upon to obey. In the eyes of our nobles, and of the so-called representatives of the people, the church was worthy of all support; and her high pretensions were conceded without being questioned. With the people, however, the case was far different. The state church had taken its position between the two great divisions of society, namely, on the side of the few called on to rule, and against the many called on to obey [hear, hear]. When they looked around for the amount of virtue and happiness which there might have been if this great machine had worked as it ought to have done, and saw it not, he (Dr Bowring) would ask them, did it not appear "that there was something rotten in the state of Denmark" [cheers]? He (Dr Bowring) had heard in the House of Commons an honourable baronet, who was member for Oxford, declare that no one could wonder at the earnestness of members of the church of England to support that church entire, for theirs alone was the true religion [laughter]; and that observation called to his (Dr Bowring's) mind a debate he once heard in the Cortes of Spain on the question of tolerance or intolerance. A member, who very much resembled the honourable member for Oxford, and who subsequently proved to be a Romish friar, took the latter side; and his ground for doing so was, "that it might be very proper that a false religion should tolerate the true faith, but that for a true religion to tolerate a false was a very different thing" [laughter]. The whole theory of the state religion of this country was founded on a pretence of infallibility; but, unless they be infallible, he would ask, what right had any man, or any body of men, to dictate to him (Dr Bowring) how he should worship his God, or to compel him to pay for the support of a religion in the tenets of which he did not believe [hear, hear]? Some years ago he (Dr Bowring) had the honour of an interview with a personage who was considered the most infallible on earth. He held a colloquy with the Pope of Rome. His holiness talked of literature, but he (Dr Bowring) did not consider his judgment right. He had read many books, but he (Dr Bowring) did not think he had read them well, or wisely. His holiness expressed his pleasure at the interview, and his delight to see an Irish catholic visiting his dominions, but the old man was much astonished when he (Dr Bowring) informed his holiness that he was a protestant, and expressed regret that his infallibility had led him so far astray. He (Dr Bowring) would hold that the religion of charity was the true principle of Christianity, and if they had equal laws and equal justice, it would be found that the people would understand that to be the letter and spirit of the gospel [cheers]. He held in his hand a most curious communication from Archbishop Whitgift, written to Queen Elizabeth, on the 24th of March, 1584, in which he thus expressed himself:—"If these canons be passed by parliament, they can, by parliament, be altered at pleasure, and we must abide by its decisions; but, if we (meaning the Queen and bishops) authorise them, they can be observed or repealed at our discretion." Now, could anything more illustrate the principle of the union of church and state than that? The tone and temper of the church had recently exhibited itself, and the fact had clearly become demonstrated that the church wanted to usurp the power of education; but the public said, "Much as we see the necessity of education—much as we esteem the benefits of knowledge—you shall not usurp the power you seek by walking over the ruins of civil and religious liberty" [loud cheers]. The time had come when it had been clearly proved that the state church had not done its

duty—that it had not discharged those trusts which had been reposed in it [cheers]. The time had come when the nonconformists must themselves do that which the church had left undone. So many rights had been disregarded—so many wrongs had been inflicted—so much vice and so much crime still existed—that the time had come when the education of the people should be taken into the hands of those who possessed purer hearts and more charitable hands [loud cheers].

Dr PRICE, in seconding the resolution, said, it was matter for congratulation that the times in which they lived were so different from those of their nonconformist ancestors, that a meeting could be called by public placards for the avowed purpose of hostility to an institution supported by the aristocracy, yet "none daring to make us afraid." We are (he said) the opponents of violent measures, yet there is a duty which we are called at this moment to fulfil, and from which we will not flinch. We object, on principle, to all religious establishments, as being opposed to the spirit of Christianity. Such a system may answer the purpose of secular powers and titled orders; but, as to the special purposes of religion, it is not only worse than useless, but is positively injurious. Look at the distractions for ecclesiastical exactions, and the prisons tenanted by men who refused to submit to such imposts—men whose consistent adherence to principle had his most cordial approval and sympathy [cheers]. Look to Norwich and elsewhere, and see the working of the establishment principle. Would that the system were thus practically brought before our countrymen in every town and village; for, unless you can put a practical evil before them, they are not easily roused. Our opponents, however, are doing our work. Dr Price then glanced at English history, exhibiting the dark picture which it affords of the working of the system. Persecution, he said, was not an attribute of any sect; by the establishing of any one it becomes persecuting. He could no more trust his own sect with the monopoly which, if established, it would enjoy, than the prelatic one now favoured. We will render, he said, to Cæsar the things which are Cæsar's, and reserve for God the things which are God's [loud cheers]. The resolution was then put and carried unanimously.

Mr W. FOSTER, independent minister, moved the second resolution. The times, he said, are changed, and nations are beginning to think and feel. State religions are a grievous burden upon almost every land. Look at the Irish church establishment, which has done more than everything else to alienate the Irish people from this country. He regarded the Irish church as a massive column, on which are written England's ignoble victories, and Ireland's not ignoble wrongs [cheers]. He protested against this monster grievance, which threatens to dismember the British empire. Shall it be suffered, said he, to do so? Never. We will come to the rescue; and this meeting affords a noble demonstration that the people of this country will not suffer a state church to continue, as an insult to the people, and as a burden too heavy to be borne. How shall the integrity of the empire be maintained? Not by fleets and armies; but by doing justice to the people. Liberty is not selfish. It looks abroad and it sees that state churches are the insatiable foes of liberty. Every blow struck fairly home against state establishments in England will be felt on the continent. Let but the colossal statue of the united church of England and Ireland fall, and it will be felt like an earthquake by every other establishment in Christendom, causing them to fall also, because they are not built upon the rock of truth, but upon the quicksands of expediency [cheers]. Look to our colonies, and there we see the establishment principle at work. A great work has been set us by the God of nations to do, and he has placed us in times when the work must be done. Instead of bread, state churches have given the people a stone. On the success of this movement depends much of the success and prosperity of this country; and of the ushering in of the jubilee of nations, and the regeneration of the world [loud cheers].

Mr J. COOK EVANS seconded the resolution. He announced the fact that at a special general meeting of the deputies of the three denominations, representing the presbyterians, independents, and baptists, in and within twelve miles of London, he had had the gratification of witnessing the unanimous adoption of a series of resolutions, drawn up and proposed by himself, distinctly affirming the broad principle of the separation of the church from the state, and clearly defining the various legislative and other changes which that separation implied [this announcement was received with loud and long-continued applause]. The admirable resolutions referred to will be found elsewhere.

The CHAIRMAN stated that the resolutions in question had received a practical shape and direction from the addition of one specially hailing the proposed conference, which, he understood, was carried almost as unanimously as the rest; only three deputies having voted against it [this declaration was received with loud applause].

Mr C. STOVEL, baptist minister, in moving the third resolution, adverted to the objections which had been urged against the Anti-state-church Conference. The measure had his cordial approval, but he was anxious that it should have the approval of the public. The conference was to be composed of delegates from public meetings and Christian churches, and of those who held conscience sacred and desired religion to be free. He thought it was likely to commend itself to all who loved freedom of thought and union in action. The first objection which he would notice was, that the proposed conference was not the thing they wanted. It leads, the objectors say, to abstract principles. It must have to do with such. The child at its mother's breast acts upon them. If the abstract principles for which they contended were generally admitted, and when admitted, were acted upon, then there would be some force, perhaps, in the objection. That religion should be free was neither generally admitted nor acted upon. If it were an abstract principle they did not wish it to continue such. They wished to throw it amongst the middle classes, for discussion; to place it before the Queen, to study; and to throw it into the legislature of the country, until an act of parliament should be obtained for the separation of church and state [cheers]. The second objection was, that the leaders in this movement were not the right men; and that they were not so respectable and of such weight as to take the lead in such a cause. "We hope," he said, "to see their numbers and respectability increased by the addition of the objectors. We have, in the list of the provisional

committee, some who are young it is true, but we have others whose hairs have been silvered with age, and that too in the cause of religious freedom [cheers]. Have we not the Pye Smiths, Wardlaws, and others, the veterans of our cause?" Some men had been bold enough to say that this conference should not be held. It would be held, and seen moreover whether it would be worthy of the contempt thus thrown upon it. It was not to man we looked for strength, but to the strength of their principles [applause]. Another objection was, that this was not the time. Not the time! When would the time come? Is not the connexion of the church with the state consummated [loud cheers]? For 1,000 years the deed had been done, and was there any doubt as to whether the result had been good or bad? Had not Christianity been stopped in her heaven-born mission to men, and her hand been paralysed by this unnatural alliance [cheers]? A grave assembly of dissenting ministers had lately declared that God has taken the work out of their hands, and placed it in the hands of our legislators. When did God do this, and where? He saw no indication of a tory government doing this work. It was true they were troubled, annoyed, and thwarted by ecclesiastical questions, but they were not disposed to disestablish the church. They might tremble like culprits, but they shed no tears of repentance for the injuries done to religion. They had received no call from heaven to relieve them. Not the time, because the church was divided! He should say, Lord, divide them again! Let the friends of religious liberty be one, and their opponents be divided. He then noticed the differences and struggles between the tractarians and evangelicals, and said, Let it be ours to show them how they can be free, and to tell them, before they can become pure they must be free. The signs of the times, as with the Apocalyptic trumpet, call on us to put in the sickle, and reap the harvest [cheers]. A further objection to the conference was, that by this onward movement they did wrong to the brethren. The case, he said, is not made out. If some stand aloof, let us seek to convince them, and be patient in our efforts to induce them to join us. To such objectors he would, however, say, "Take care you do not injure yourselves by so doing." Let them remember that society is moving on, and let them see to it that they are not found standing still. It is God's work, not a trivial thing; not our interests so much as the interests of a dying world and the glory of God [cheers]. And lastly, it was said that they had already existing societies to do the work. He honoured all; but how could this fact be got over, that they were all crippled for want of funds—not receiving the support of the public? This movement, he considered, was adapted to secure the advantages of the times, to enlighten the public mind, and to set in motion the agitation of the question within and without the walls of parliament, and to keep it in motion [loud cheering]. This is not a small work [hear]. Ireland weeps to be relieved; Scotland requires this grievance to be abolished; the church is affrighted; and the legislature is embarrassed. What shall we do? Let the endowments be transferred from the church for national purposes, and set the church free [cheers]. Mr Stovel then adverted to the resolution appointing Mr Sharman Crawford, M.P., and Mr E. Miall, as the representatives from that meeting to the conference. He could confidently recommend both those gentlemen to be their representatives, for he knew them well. They all their lives have been engaged in the cause of humanity and truth, and he would say to them now, "Go, with all your sterling talents; and, like the beacon on the beach, serve as a guide to the struggling vessel. Be as firm as the rocky cliff, and may the God Almighty aid and assist your benevolent efforts." [Mr Stovel sat down amidst loud and long continued applause.]

Mr AVELING briefly seconded the resolution, by expressing his cordial approval of the conference, and his anxiety for its success. He observed, that just before coming to the meeting he saw a brother minister, who said that this meeting would be a complete failure, and that the room would not be half full [laughter]. How vain was such a prediction [cheers]!

A vote of thanks was moved to the Chairman by Mr G. SIMMONS, honorary secretary of the Metropolitan Anti-state-church Association, and seconded by Mr ROBERTS, and carried with acclamation. The Chairman having briefly acknowledged the compliment, the meeting, which, it ought to have been said, comprised a large number of ladies, was dissolved.

ANTI-STATE-CHURCH CONFERENCE.—ELECTION OF A DELEGATE.—On Monday evening a meeting took place in the school-room of the Baptist chapel, Portsmouth, for the purpose of electing a delegate to this convention, which is to be held in London in April. After tea the Rev. J. Davis took the chair; and, among other gentlemen, Mr H. Vincent addressed the meeting. The Rev. Mr Davis was elected delegate to the approaching Anti-state-church Conference.—*Sheffield Independent*.

CHURCH RATES.—At Portsmouth, on Thursday last, a long argument took place before the borough magistrates on the subject of the non-payment of church rates. There were, it seems, five recusants; but the case of one only, Mr R. H. Elcock, was heard. Mr Field, who appeared for the defendant, clearly showed that the vestry had been informally convened, and that the rate was retrospective; two errors fatal to its legality. The magistrates, however, decided that the rate must be paid notwithstanding.—The poll which took place at Stoke Newington on Monday and Tuesday in last week, for the laying of a church rate (referred to last week), gave as the result 171 in its favour, and 50 against it.

A NOBLE ANSWER.—The venerated and venerable vicar of Hull, Mr Bromby, when told some years ago that the Friends could not, consistently with their religious principles, pay tithes without compulsion, answered, "Then I cannot compel them consistently with mine," and so exacted nothing from them.—*Hull Rockingham*.

PUSEYISM IN CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY.—The progress of the ecclesiastical branch of popery in Cambridge will be illustrated by the following:—"March 13.—Last evening a debate on the subject of monasteries took place at the union. The question proposed was, 'That the dissolution of monasteries, by Henry VIII., has been highly injurious to this

country; and that the circumstances of the times imperatively demand the restoration of similar institutions. The numbers were—for the motion, 88; against it, 60: majority, 28. The question was argued with more than usual ability on both sides. The great interest it excited in the university may be gathered from the fact of the discussion extending over three evenings, on the last of which, Tuesday, the 12th inst., there was a larger house than has been assembled for many months."

**THE CHURCH CATECHISM QUESTION.**—The second adjourned conference of the committee of the Sunday School Union with the committees of the four London auxiliaries and their branches, was held on Tuesday evening, in the lecture room of the Literary institution, Aldersgate street. Mr Mann was called to the chair. A long discussion took place, which resulted in an adjournment of the meeting, many persons present being anxious to speak on the subject. It is difficult to say when the discussion will terminate, the conference having been already twice adjourned.

**PRESBYTERIAN MARRIAGES.**—FORMIDABLE AGITATION.—In accordance with the resolutions of the general assembly of the presbyterian church, recently held in Belfast, meetings are now in progress all through the province of Ulster. The *Londonderry Standard* contains a five-column report of a meeting held in that town on Monday, at which the mayor, W. Haslitt, Esq., presided. The speakers denounced the insolent and oppressive encroachments of the state church, and the system of base deception practised against the presbyterians since the unfortunate alliance between prelacy and presbyterianism, announced at the orange meeting at Hillsborough, for the promotion of the scheme for turning out the whigs. Counsellor Leatham made the following very pointed reference to this subject:—

"I hope, Sir, civil and religious liberty will be our motto for the future [cheers]. Let Exeter hall leagues be at an end, let there be no more Hillsborough alliances; and if, unfortunately, any such alliances should hereafter be proposed by restless and aspiring members of our church, let the banns be promptly and peremptorily forbidden; and let the meddling men who propose them be taught to feel that they have mistaken their position in our church, and that they neither possess the confidence nor speak the sentiments of the presbyterian body."

Dr Cooke was the publisher of the banns, and at the same time the tool and the dupe of the Tories at the Hillsborough meeting.—Mr. W. McClure, in moving a resolution, demanding a fair and equitable marriage act for Ireland, said:—

"The English Marriage act has been offered to us. This we will indignantly reject. It leaves the episcopal clergy free, and binds us hand and foot. Proclamation of banns before the guardians of the poor law union, is required for all who are called dissenters; heavy fees are required to be paid, and a policeman must be present to see that the ceremony is properly performed."

Meetings of a similar character have taken place at Belfast, Derry, &c., and are largely reported by the local journals. The episcopalians and the presbyterians in Ireland are about equal in number, amounting together to nearly 160,000.

**AN EJECTED CLERGYMAN.**—On Sunday evening Mr Rees, formerly curate of Sunderland (whose ejection from the establishment we have before noticed in the *Herald*), preached in Bethel (Independent) chapel. The building was crowded in every part before the hour for commencing divine worship, and a great number of persons went away from the doors unable to obtain admittance. A hymn was first sung, and then the rev. gentleman read a chapter and engaged in extemporaneous prayer; a second hymn was sung, and Mr Rees delivered a practical discourse from Romans i. 18, "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men." The sermon occupied an hour in its delivery, and was listened to with the deepest attention. On Wednesday evening Mr Rees again preached in the same chapel from the 32nd Psalm: the audience was overflowing.—*Sunderland Herald*.

**A CHURCH CRYSTAL.**—When dirt is dry it rubs off. This appears to be as true of the dirt that in this miry world falls upon a man's character, as of the muck that defiles his boots. His cordovan to-night may reek with city mire; the foulness dries, hardens, and yielding to the friction of hog's bristles, gives place to a lustrous polish. What was filth, polluting any decent hearth-rug, is now a brilliant Day and Martin, fit, ay, to tread a bishop's carpet. And so it is with the immortal part of man, especially when the said immortal part dignifies a canon and a rector. The Rev. H. C. Marsh illustrates this beautiful truth. In a recent trial, he has shown that, however dirty his boots may have been, treading the foul ways of London—its filthy nooks and corners of filthiest vice—he had at least a soul to bear his leather jocund company. The Bishop of Peterborough cannot, however, remove Mr Marsh from the insulted church, for this wise and sufficient reason—the offences committed are dated two years back! A sin—let it be of the foulest kind—if committed by a clergyman two years ago, is supposed to become dry, and so gets rubbed off. Mr Marsh's character, for all pastoral purposes, has been cleaned with his boots. Two years ago, it was grimed with moral dirt, picked up in the company of a French harpy; but it is now bright again, and warranted to keep its polish in any climate. It has been an old English boast, that our soil gives freedom to every foreign slave; it may, we find, be the pride of every other country, that she gives freedom to enact the profligate, in every character, to an English clergyman. Would a Mr Marsh go yokefellow with a mercenary Dalilah, he has only to cross the Channel. He may be the most abandoned ruffian in Paris, but sweetly magical is the air of England, for no sooner

does he come home, than, legally purged of his iniquity, he may mount the pulpit, and, secure in his infamy, make mouths at his Bishop. Such is the wisdom of the ecclesiastical law.—*Punch*.

**THE POOR MAN'S CHURCH.**—I take the amount of the revenues of the church at eight millions of pounds per annum, a sum unquestionably under the truth, as I am prepared to prove from most valid evidence. Supposing the population to be sixteen millions, the church costs each individual 10s., or each family of six persons £3 a year. Six thousand clergymen, properly located, with £300 a year each for all expenses, would be amply sufficient for all the conformists in the kingdom. This would relieve the public from a burden of full six million pounds per annum—or 7s. 6d. per head—45s. per family.—*Thorn's Tracts*.

**CHURCH AND STATE.**—Toleration was granted as a favour, rather than bestowed as a right. But inasmuch as this favour was all the dissenters had insisted on, we should not complain that no more was conceded. They obtained what they fought for. They had their requests. Will their descendants be contented with the boon which was granted one hundred and fifty years ago? Are there no more victories to be obtained over despotism? Is the old Saxon earnestness of the people extinct? Is it in accordance with progress and providence, that old lies shall last for ever? How long shall church and state, in such a country as England, be united? Will such a nation as the English be much longer submissive to the old invention of Constantine and paganism?—*American Bible Repository for Jan. 1844*.

**THE STATE CHURCH IN JAMAICA.**—We learn from our vigilant contemporary, the *Baptist Herald*, that the parish church of St Catharine, Spanish Town, has been converted into a cathedral church for the see of Jamaica, thus offering a direct insult to the opinions of about nine-tenths of the inhabitants of Jamaica. The *Herald* says—"Provided episcopalians themselves pay for the enlargement, or for the building of a new cathedral, for the creation of prebends, for the erection of stalls, we raise no objection; but we do say that it will be iniquitous and unjust if the whole community are compelled by taxation to support a religious system from which they conscientiously dissent."

**JAMAICA.**—The House of Assembly has resumed its sittings; and, among other actions, it has refused to exempt ministers of religion from paying toll, when passing through Old Harbour turnpike on the Lord's day.—*Baptist Herald*.

**EDINBURGH FREE PRESBYTERY.**—At a special meeting on Thursday, after a resolution had been passed to petition parliament against Lord Lyndhurst's Dissenters' Chapels bill, Dr Candlish brought forward a motion proposing that they should overture the assembly, if they saw cause, to appoint a commission to meet with commissions appointed by other bodies to confer together on the subject of missions, education, and other subjects of vital importance to religion. If the different Christian denominations would meet annually by their representatives, and sit eight or ten days in consultation, having no ecclesiastical authority, nor right to interfere with the affairs of the different churches, he was persuaded it would issue in most blessed results. Mr Begg very cordially seconded the motion. Professor Duncan warmly supported the overture, and hoped that the union would not be restricted to the British churches, but would extend to the reformed churches on the continent, where, he thought, the influence of the British churches would do much good. The proposal was unanimously agreed to.

## Correspondence.

### SOCIALISM VERSUS CHRISTIANITY.

To the Editor of the *Nonconformist*.

SIR—The article in your last paper, "Human Hecatombs," is deserving of the highest praise. Oh! if you can, by any means, make an impression on Christians, in reference to our present horrible warlike system, you will not only deserve, but have, the thanks of millions of the present and of future ages.

I do not belong to the Society of Friends, nor to the Peace Society; but, sir, I do abhor war, and the guilty indifference of Christians to what has been going on in the East has been a subject of deep lamentation with me. I firmly believe that, if the government had allowed their servants to throw three or four thousand bushels of wheat into the Thames, or to shoot the same number of dogs, without asking the consent of their owners, we should have had three thousand times more stir through the country, and even among Christians too, than this last wanton sacrifice of human beings will occasion.

My chief object, however, in making any remark on this gloomy subject is to place before the Christians of England what I heard with my own ears a few evenings since. I stepped into a socialist place of meeting, where a person was lecturing on the worship of Moloch. After a number of criticisms on the derivation of words, he managed to arrive at the conclusion that Moloch meant king, and worship meant sacrifice, so that its true signification was king-worship. Then, after referring to Alexander the Great and others, he came down to George the Third, the greatest of all Molochs, as having sacrificed more human lives to his ambition than any man; and, after indulging in many blasphemous allusions, which were enough to make a Christian's blood run cold, he retired.

Discussion was then invited, when an elderly man rose—he also having a Bible in his hand—saying that he could not agree in all the lecturer had advanced, but wished to say a few words on the subject of war and peace. After reading a passage from one of Paul's Epistles, which I do not now remember, he proceeded to say that the Christianity of the present day could not be worth any attention, because the church encouraged and sanctioned war; that the church of England, which was the largest sect, lived upon it, and consecrated every stand of colours. He then sat down. A pause

ensued, discussion was again invited, and, after a notice or two had been given, the whole closed.

Never before did I find myself placed in so painful a position as a Christian. I could easily have risen to prove that the church of England is a political, not a Christian, church, and that, consequently, its sanctioning war is no argument against Christianity; but, sir, could I have said that the Christian church reprobates war? I was silent, and returned home much agitated. I leave this simple narration of what took place to make its own impression. I am, sir, yours,

A LOVER OF PEACE.

Islington, 16th March.

## Imperial Parliament.

### HOUSE OF COMMONS.

#### PETITIONS FOR THE WEEK.

Bankruptcy, for alteration of law of, 2.  
Church rates, against abolition of, 1.  
Coals, for repeal of export duty on, 2.  
Corn laws, for repeal of, 1.  
—against repeal of, 146.  
Dueling, for prevention of, 1.  
Factories bill, for, 96.  
—against, 3.  
Local Courts, for establishment of, 6.  
Poor Law Amendment, against, 8.  
—for, 5.  
Railways, for free competition on, 3.  
Redress of Grievances, for, 5.  
St Asaph and Bangor Dioceses, against union of, 18.  
Tea, for reduction of duty on, 2.  
Tobacco, for reduction of duty on, 71.  
Union with Ireland, for repeal of, 120.  
Universal Suffrage, for, 2.  
Window tax, for exemption of victualers, 3.

#### BILLS PRESENTED AND READ A FIRST TIME.

Quarter Sessions bill.  
Detached parts of Counties bill.

#### BILLS READ A SECOND TIME.

Mutiny bill.  
Marine Mutiny bill.  
Night Poaching Prevention bill.  
Gold and Silver Wares bill.  
Parishes (Scotland) bill.

#### CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE.

County Coroners' bill.  
Masters and Servants bill.  
Factories bill.  
International Copyright bill.  
Dean Forest Encroachments bill.  
Mutiny bill.  
Marine Mutiny bill.  
Night Poaching Prevention bill.

#### READ A THIRD TIME AND PASSED.

Indemnity bill.  
International Copyright bill.

#### DEBATES.

Wednesday, March 20th, 1844.

#### MASTERS' AND SERVANTS' BILL.

Mr W. MILES, having moved the further consideration of the report on this bill, which has the following title—"A Bill for enlarging the powers of Justices in determining Complaints between Masters, Servants, and Artificers, and for the more effectual recovery of Wages before Justices,"

Mr HAWES called the attention of the government to the fact that the clauses were of a very large and comprehensive character, and gave to the magistracy some extremely harsh powers.

Sir J. GRAHAM said that when the hon. member had consulted him on the subject of this bill, he had expressed an opinion that it would be well to bring into a focus all the acts of parliament relating to master and servant. He had understood, that, in doing so, the hon. gentleman intended to extend to magistrates a power as concerned work done under contract. To that he had no objection, and further than that he had understood that the bill would not alter the law.

Mr MILES said that this bill repealed all the existing acts, and re-enacted their provisions, extending the power of magistrates just so far as the right hon. baronet had explained. He could assure the House that he did not propose by this bill to give any new power to magistrates.

The House then went into committee on the bill. The first clause was agreed to, on the understanding that Mr D. Barclay was to move an amendment relative to the recovery of wages by servants, on bringing up the report. The second clause was also agreed to.

On the third clause, which, on account of its importance, we give at length, some discussion took place:—

"And be it enacted, that if any servant, workman, labourer, or other person, shall contract to serve or work for any other person, and shall not enter into his or her service or employment according to the contract, or, having entered thereinto, shall absent himself or herself therefrom before the term of his or her contract, or before the work contracted to be performed shall be completed, or shall be guilty of any other misbehaviour concerning such service or employment, it shall be lawful for any justice of the peace, upon complaint thereof made upon oath by the master or employer, or by his or her steward, or agent, bailiff, foreman, or manager, instead of awarding damages or abatement of wages, to order that the party complained of shall be imprisoned in the common gaol or house of correction, with or without hard labour, for any term not exceeding two calendar months."

Mr T. D'EYNCOURT said, he should move, after the word "contract," line 36, clause 3, the addition of the following words:—"Such contract being in writing, and signed by the contracting parties." As the clause at present stood, they were putting into the hands of the justices of the peace a most arbitrary power; they left them to judge of the nature of the contract, that contract not being in writing.

Mr DARBY thought that the word "misbehaviour" might as well have been left out of the bill; but into that subject he would not then enter. The measure

before the House was to remedy cases in which it was not necessary to have any contract in writing. The amendment proposed would take away entirely the remedy from the parties in question.

Mr T. DUNCOMBE called the attention of the committee to the probable effect of the bill upon the pitmen of the collieries in the north. Fifteen of these men were taken before their masters, acting as magistrates in petty sessions, and had been committed; the men had been brought up from Durham to London by *habeas corpus*, when they were released by the judges.

Sir J. GRAHAM said the subject should have his consideration.

After some further conversation, the chairman reported progress.

Thursday, March 21st.

#### IMPORT DUTIES.

Mr EWART, in a speech in which he went into illustrative details, moved these resolutions—

"That it is indispensable to the maintenance and extension of the trade of this country that those duties be repealed which press on the raw materials of manufacture, especially the raw materials of the woolen and cotton trade. That it is expedient also that those duties be greatly reduced which press on articles of interchange in return for our manufactures, especially such articles of interchange as at the same time concern the subsistence of the people; being (besides corn, which is the subject of superior and separate consideration) such articles as tea, sugar, coffee, bacon, butter, and cheese. That it is expedient that those duties also be greatly reduced, which, by their amount, encourage smuggling, being at once injurious to the revenue and dangerous to the morality of the country; such as the duties on tobacco, silk goods, and foreign spirits. That whatever temporary deficiency of revenue be caused by such reduction ought, until the revenue regain its former amount, to be sustained by the property, and not by the trade and labour, of the country."

While Mr Ewart was proceeding to support this motion in a speech, a member moved that the House be counted, and only thirty-eight members being present the House adjourned at seven o'clock.

Friday, March 22nd.

#### THE FACTORIES BILL.

The House having gone into committee on this bill, and the consideration of the second clause having been resumed, Mr TATTEN EGERTON moved an amendment to exclude silk factories from the operation of the measure. Sir JAMES GRAHAM undertook to relax the proposed limitations of time for children employed in the departments of throwing and winding silk; and Mr Egerton withdrew his amendment.

Clauses up to seven were agreed to, after some verbal amendments. On clause eight being read,

Lord ASHLEY moved the introduction of the amendment of which he had given notice: viz.—"That the words 'meal-time' should signify two hours' cessation from labour during the working hours." The noble lord referred to the opinion of Mr Horner, the factory commissioner, as to the effect of a reduction of the hours of labour upon the wages of the factory operative; but that statement had been given with the qualification that his information had been derived from the mill-owner. In 1836, when a reduction in the hours of labour took place, he (Lord Ashley) had himself gone through a large number of the cotton and worsted factories, and he had ascertained that the operatives were receiving just as much wages for eight hours' work as they were formerly receiving for twelve hours. The noble lord then read the details of the earnings of different families employed in factories, for the purpose of showing that they had nothing to apprehend from a reduction of the hours of labour, and that they were themselves prepared for such a change. One of the calculations was as follows:—

But he would refer to another statement of the expenses of a family of five persons, three of whom worked in a mill twelve hours a day, the father being out of employment, and the mother and two children working in the mill. The mother obtained 10s. a week, the eldest child 4s., and the other 3s.; making the total weekly receipts of the family 17s. But what were the outgoings under the present system? The expense of washing, which they were obliged to send out, and mangling, was 2s. a week; it cost them 1s. a week to employ a woman to assist the husband—who remained at home, performing the domestic work—in cleaning the house; and a further expense of 1s. a week was incurred by the necessity of sending meals out to the mills. Honourable gentlemen were aware that, if a family dined together, each person satisfied his appetite, and any food which remained might be kept for a subsequent meal; but if the meals of each member of a family were sent to different mills, any surplus food was likely to be wasted. A very considerable weekly saving would therefore result from families being able to take their meals together. But there was another source of loss to be taken into account—that which arose from the cooking being performed by the husband. He (Lord Ashley) believed that no man, whether Frenchman or Englishman, could cook so economically as a woman [a laugh]. The loss which resulted from cooking being performed by the husband might be calculated at 1s. a day. The total loss of the family was, therefore, 5s. a week; this sum, deducted from the wages of 17s., left 12s. a week for rent, provisions, clothing, and other necessary expenses. But he would state the expenses of the same family under the ten-hour system, supposing that the rate of wages was reduced in the same proportion as the hours of labour—by one-sixth. The total wages of the family would then be 14s. 2d. a week; but mark what economy resulted from the happier circumstances in which they were placed. The washing [and mangling, which were formerly sent out, would now in a great measure be done by the women, in consequence of their reaching home earlier; and it might therefore be calculated that the cost of washing, &c., would not exceed 1s. a week. Then his informant calculated that the cost of employing a woman to assist the husband and wife in cleaning those parts of the house which required the hardest work would

be 6d. a week. The total expense to which the family would be put for these purposes would thus be 1s. 6d. a week, leaving a balance of 12s. 8d. to meet rent, provisions, and clothing. This statement proved, he thought most satisfactorily, that a family which under the twelve-hour system received 17s. a week, and under the ten-hour system 14s. 2d., would, under the latter system, effect a saving of 8d. a week. The proposition for lessening the hours of labour was now twelve years before the house; it had been sanctioned by a large majority, and he hoped it would not be rendered inefficient and nugatory by any act of official authority on the part of the government [hear, hear].

Sir W. CLAY expressed his determination to oppose the motion, because he did not think it would produce the results the noble lord anticipated. He deprecated any legislative interference between employers and labourers, unless in cases where the existence of very great evils were clearly shown. In his opinion the proposition of the noble lord, if adopted, would go far to put in peril the commercial greatness of this country. He referred at some length to the conflicting allegations as to the healthiness or unhealthiness of factory labour, and contended that the authoritative evidence was in favour of the former.

Mr M. MILNES thought the yielding of Sir James Graham in the factory bill of last year was just as undignified as his opposition on the present occasion. He was sorry to see the government trying a chance contingency to enable them to reverse the solemn decision of that House on a former occasion. They had contracted an enormous debt of national guilt by the length to which they had permitted the factory system to proceed, training up thousands and hundreds of thousands in a state of brutish ignorance and degradation. The hon. member then referred to the address recently put forward by the delegates of the operatives of Lancashire, in which they asserted that they had reviewed the speech of Lord Ashley paragraph by paragraph, and they affirmed, from their own experience, that the whole of the statements in it were correct.

Wishing from his heart the best in every way to her Majesty's government, he most heartily grieved that they had in this matter set themselves against the opinion, against the sympathy, against the good feeling, and against, he believed, the religious sense of so large a proportion of the people of England; and he would now sit down, humbly imploring them, before it was too late, not to persist in that dangerous course, and not drive his noble friend to some desperate extremity [much laughter]. It was a subject he felt deeply upon [cheers], and therefore he said—not drive his noble friend to any extremity, to which he would be very unwillingly driven, but in which he believed his noble friend would be supported by a majority of that House. Yes, he believed that a majority would support his noble friend in an address to the throne, declaring to her Majesty that the only resource was in her benevolence, and in her noble and generous feelings, against the shortsightedness, or rather blindness, of her government [hear, hear].

Mr V. SMITH supported the amendment of the noble lord.

Mr CARDWELL, declaring his object to be the welfare of the operative classes, condemned the error of treating this question as one of humanity alone, unconnected with commerce. Commercial considerations affected the prosperity of the operatives too largely to be excluded from such a discussion. If the object of the noble mover and his friends was a uniform ten hours bill, they were aiming at that which would greatly deteriorate the condition of the young children, by causing relays of them to be employed instead of adults. If the object was not a uniform ten hours bill, then it was not true that the mover was backed by the support for which he took credit. He believed that the reduction of a sixth in the time would occasion the reduction of a fourth in the wages. He had heard innumerable complaints of short wages; and he knew that misery had always accompanied short hours. The operatives in general were under the delusion of supposing that the time would be abridged without abridgment of wages; Manchester had been placarded, "Less work, more wages; sign for the ten hours bill." Foreign countries had now got our machinery: it was said, they had not capital to compete with us; but only put restrictions enough upon the employment of capital in this country, and it would soon go to foreign countries, where there was no compulsion of short hours:—

Looking now at the state of our manufactures and of those on the continent, he would ask, could we safely disregard foreign competition? Our machinery foreigners possessed long before the act of last year [hear, hear], and it was only necessary to put sufficient restrictions upon English manufactures to give them abundance of capital. Belgium possessed coal, possessed a population willing to work long hours, and to subsist upon a more meagre diet than the English lived upon. If the noble lord thought our commerce rested upon a basis so secure that we might pay no attention to the proceedings of foreigners, and disregard their rivalry, he would tell the noble lord that he was greatly mistaken, and that if he succeeded in carrying those theories into practical operation he would "sow the wind and reap the whirlwind" [hear]. He believed the worst enemies of the operatives to be those who, with mistaken motives of humanity, were attempting to disturb the natural distribution of labour.

Mr BROTHERTON supported the restriction to ten hours, which time, he said, was long enough for man, woman, or child to work. He wished to see a uniform measure of ten hours for labourers of all ages.

Lord JOHN MANNERS described the comfortable state of some of the factory districts in which he had made a tour. He declared himself favourable to Lord Ashley's proposal; and professed to treat with "something like contempt" the notion that the commercial prosperity of England depended upon a couple of hours.

Mr WARD remarked that it was admitted on all sides that there was a universal pressure on the po-

pulation—that hand and body were overworked—that even children were forced to labour too early and too long. He admitted that, morally and socially, ten hours' labour was better than twelve; he would not submit to be taunted with a deficiency in humanity, in his consideration for such a state of things. But could they, by an act of parliament, overrule such a state of things? He deeply regretted the countenance which had been given by the leaders of the whig party to the fallacious expectations which this vote on the ten hours' question was calculated to excite.

Now, the decision of Monday night he regarded as a most unfortunate one; it had awakened and given an impulse to wishes, and feelings, and hopes that no reasonable man should ever entertain. It had given an immense impulse to the chartist feelings of the country [hear, hear, and oh, oh], associated as it was—and nobody knew it better than the honourable member for Knaresborough—with the idea of the power of that House to regulate labour and capital; and which he (Mr Ward) believed to be most mischievous [hear, hear]. He had seen all the theories which he had heard in the course of this debate advocated strongly by Mr Feargus O'Connor and Mr Oastler [hear, hear]; and he must tell his hon. friends near him, and the noble lord the member for the city of London, that nothing had given him so much grief as to see amongst the party with which he was connected such fallacious doctrines clothed with the authority of their respected names [hear, hear, and cheers].

We had to deal with an export trade of forty millions; and, without considering the variety of manufacturing productions involved, they were called, on mere principles of humanity, to strike off seven weeks from the annual amount of the labour of every individual employed. The connexion between the reduction of profit and the fall of wages which would ensue, could be almost mathematically traced; and therefore he was sorry to see that some of the leading organs of the press advocated principles which were calculated to disturb all ideas of the relation of capital and labour in this country. Compared with the manufacturing operatives, the condition of the agricultural population in the midland counties was deplorable; and when they sought to ameliorate the condition of the factory labourers, could they do anything for the Sheffield grinders? He thought they could—by the repeal of the corn law.

What was it that drove men to the necessity of struggling for bread? Could they find no means of relieving their destitution? He thought he could, but the supporters of the corn law could not [cheers]; and when the noble lord taunted him with inhumanity—not personally, because he could not speak unkindly to any one—but he assumed a sort of superior humanity in that house [hear, hear], which he (Mr Ward) would venture to say many of his countrymen would regard as extremely suspicious, so long as they saw him voting for a measure which had a direct tendency to increase the price of their food [loud cheers]. They must not mince these matters; they must not let one side of the House have more claims to humanity than the other [hear, hear]. He believed he could show the noble lord more suffering amongst the working classes arising from the corn laws, which, as he said before, raised up, as it were, a wall of brass between the people of the town he represented (Sheffield) and their food; more misery, he repeated, could be shown as resulting from this, than from any other cause [cheers]. He did not accuse the noble lord and honourable members opposite of inhumanity, but he would not be taunted with heartless indifference towards those whom he represented [hear, hear].

Sir R. H. INGLIS remarked on the anomalous condition of the government. They had proposed a bill which was regarded as right by nearly all the opposition, and as wrong by all their usual supporters. Would it be right, consistent, or even decent, to reverse a solemn decision of the House, and thus dash the expectations which had been raised?

He had received, he presumed with other honourable members who constituted the majority of 179, on Monday, an address from the workpeople of Leeds, Bradford, Bolton, Manchester, and other large manufacturing towns, in which they expressed their congratulations, and thanked the House for the decision to which it had come on Monday. He could not read this paper without feeling that hopes had been so much raised by the vote of Monday, that her Majesty's ministers by rescinding the vote would excite strong feelings of despair and indignation. In the address from Leeds, it was stated that the workpeople tendered their joyous and hearty thanks to the 179 members of the House of Commons who constituted the majority, and more especially to his noble friend who was sitting near him a few minutes ago [a laugh].

Lord Ashley's proposition was one which gave ample time for the experiment, and any reduction of wages that might occur would be amply compensated by the increased comfort of the operatives.

Mr CHARLES BULLER and Mr COLLETT rose together, but the latter not being disposed to give way, raised a long-continued tumultuous storm of disapprobation, which he endured with imperturbable stolidity. At last the House succeeded in enforcing the preference for

Mr C. BULLER, who said, that as ministers were seeking to make nonsense of the bill by negating, on the 8th clause, the construction which the House had already given to the 1st, they ought to have begun the debate by stating their reasons for that reversal. But the House, up to that moment, knew nothing about those reasons; and the only important speech in favour of the government had been the extraordinarily able one of Mr Cardwell. He avowed that in voting for Lord Ashley's motion he was acting on a new principle.

When he voted with the noble lord, he deliberately adopted a new and bold principle of legislation. He exposed himself to the charge which was thrown out against all who voted with the majority, that they were voting against all principle; for he voted, he was quite aware, against the principle on which legislation on these matters had hitherto been conducted; a legislation which, while it contented itself with protecting the property of the rich, shrunk from giving its protection to the poor, and left the helpless to take care of themselves, and

paid no attention to the revolutions which the progress of time brings about in the social condition of nations [hear, hear]. New evils require new remedies. A new social state, such as that of England had become in the present century, required new principles of legislation [hear, hear]. Could it be said that this was a view of the matter in which no thinking man concurred with him?

He compared the mortality of the great towns with that of the agricultural districts, and inferred that where the health of the parents was so injuriously affected the race of their offspring must degenerate. They wanted rest, they wanted education; the bonds which elsewhere bound the rich and the poor together had no existence here; and what was to become of your own properties if such a state of things was to continue? You had neglected their religious and sanitary condition: you had provided them with nothing but police. The political economists shook their heads, and said nothing; but Lord Ashley came to the subject practically, and said, Begin with restoring the women to their natural duties. There were so many unemployed men, that those employers who wished for labourers competent to work twelve hours would find no lack of hands. He admitted that humanity could not overlook the commercial view of the subject; but the alarms given on this head were very indefinite. Sir R. Peel had asked, what would you do with workpeople not employed in mills, and with domestic servants? His own answer was, that he would adhere to his principle as far as it would work well, and where it would not, he would cease to apply it. He thought the old system proceeded too much upon the principle of leaving the people to shift for themselves. The wisest of men had observed, "The slothful man saith, There is a lion in the way;" here, not a cat could show her shadow, but the government made a lion of her. The bugbear was the loss of our foreign trade; but let the government only take off the duty on raw cotton, and that whole difficulty was removed. He controverted some of the details of Sir James Graham's calculations, contending that the diminution of wages would be only 9 per cent., instead of being 25, as Sir James Graham had computed it. The loss of wages, whatever it might amount to, would not be a clear loss, so great would be the compensation in domestic economy. Gentlemen were afraid of the effect of lowered wages on the corn laws; that argument, he believed, had been very generally, though not openly, pressed.

Let him ask those friends of the corn laws who were ready to sacrifice every other consideration and feeling of humanity to their policy of maintaining those laws, how would it tell with the masses of the people of England—with the masses of the operatives, from whose lips they dashed away the cup of hope—with the intelligent and thinking classes, who believed that in this case humanity and policy went together: how, said he, would they reconcile their conduct to those persons? and would it not be much more fatal to the corn laws, if intelligent men said the maintenance of those laws was made the protection of every other abuse [hear, hear], and that for those laws the country gentlemen of England would sacrifice education, morality, social relations, and the physical well-being of the people [loud cries of "Oh, oh," from the ministerial side, and cheers from the opposition]? What, too, would be the feeling of the operative when carrying on the two hours of his task, and working hard? Would he not say, "I am not working for my bread, but to pay to the landlords their tax upon that bread" [hear, hear]? If they really meant to maintain the corn laws, let them maintain those laws for themselves and by themselves, and let not the people of this country believe that they were linked for ever with every abuse and every evil of the social system [loud cheers from the opposition].

Mr COLLETT moved the adjournment of the debate.

Mr T. DUNCOMBE hoped the government would favour the House with some reason why they called upon them to rescind the vote of the previous evening. He believed the greatest anxiety prevailed among the operatives throughout the kingdom, for the success of the noble lord's amendment.

Sir JAMES GRAHAM rose, and after some contention between those who wished for an adjournment and the insisters for a division, proceeded to address the House. Notwithstanding the anomalous nature of the opposition which the government had to encounter, he never had less hesitation in the course which he had adopted. In the interval which has elapsed, the sentiments of the master manufacturers had been more distinctly ascertained by the government; and all subsequent inquiry and reflection had confirmed the mature opinion, already formed, that the adoption of the limitation of ten hours, would be most fatal to the interests of the working classes.

The point to be determined by the committee is this—whether by a diminution by one-sixth of the hours of labour you can compensate the working classes for the inevitable misery—I was about to say, and I hardly think that the expression is too strong—that must be consequent upon a reduction of wages to the amount of 20 or 25 per cent. [hear]; or if that shall not be the immediate consequence—if the consequence should be the advancement of foreign competitors—that which cannot occur without eventual loss to the manufacturing labour of this country—I put it, then, to the committee whether any diminution of labour such as the noble lord contemplates can be compensated by the sufferings induced by a diminished demand for labour and the reduction of wages [hear]? It is most painful to me to be opposed upon this occasion to the great body of gentlemen with whom I have acted with great satisfaction, and from whom her Majesty's government have received so cordial and general a support; but I am so deeply impressed with the magnitude of interests that are at stake—I feel so sincerely that I cannot yield on this point—that all personal considerations are but as dust in the balance, compared with my sense of duty [hear]. I am quite satisfied that in point of fact our commercial and manufacturing prosperity is at stake upon the decision of this evening.

After a few words from Mr Collett and Mr Beckett, the latter of whom called up Sir James Graham, as to the actual opinions of the principal flax manufacturers of Leeds, who have signed a memorial, and sent up a deputation against the adoption of the ten hours—Mr Aldam confirmed Mr Beckett, in the allegation that the general feeling of Leeds was in favour of eleven hours.

A number of short speeches were made in explanation of different points; and the chairman, Mr Greene, having been called on to state what was the actual question on which the committee were going to divide, said that it was on the question whether or not the blank should be filled up with the word "twelve."

The committee then divided; and there appeared

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Against it.....	186
Majority against.....	3
For "ten" hours.....	181
Against it.....	188
Majority against.....	7

Sir JAMES GRAHAM suggested that the chairman should report progress, in order to give time for further consideration.

Lord ASHLEY said that, though defeated now, he would persevere to the last hour of his existence with the question.

The CHAIRMAN then reported progress.

Monday, March 25th.

THE FACTORIES BILL.

On the order of the day for the committee on the Factories bill,

Sir J. GRAHAM, after recapitulating the former proceedings on this bill, and adverting to the confusion into which it had been thrown by the contradictory decisions of the last week, observed that there were only three practicable courses. The first was to take eleven hours as a medium between the ten and the twelve. The second was to abandon the measure altogether. And the third was to re-introduce the measure in the shape of a new bill. He referred to some questions put to him in the last session, and to his own answers, importing his uniform adherence to the twelve-hour principle; and then considered, in their order, the three courses he had indicated. With respect to the first, he admitted that in the legislation of this country compromise might sometimes be expedient; but then such compromise should be safe, and should promise to be durable—and the compromise now in question would, he feared, have neither safety nor durability. In the first place, it would be very injurious (especially in the cotton trade) to the masters, who strongly represented to government that it would not only involve a loss of their profit, but endanger the very continuance of their business. For the operatives, it must have the effect of diminishing wages by not less than from fifteen to twenty per cent. The working people were under a delusion on this subject; and he was persuaded that the first effect of a curtailment of time would be a general strike against the curtailment of wages. Dangerous as he thought would be the change, still greater was the danger of some of the arguments used in its favour: for instance, the argument that the loss of wages to the workman would be no real detriment to him, but would be made up in moral advantages. Another argument had been, that we had arrived at a new social state, requiring an interference by the legislature with all kinds of labour. If this doctrine was to be held, he should prefer to see the House abandon all attempt to fix a maximum of labour, and come at once to fix a minimum of wages. He had lately seen a passage in a periodical work protesting against the commencement of such a Jack Cade system, and he agreed in that protest.

To sum up my views, therefore, I should say that I cannot conceive that it can ever be conducive to human happiness to impose limits upon human industry [loud cheers]. I cannot conceive that it can ever be for the interests of the state to take any step which would in effect reduce the profit upon capital, restrict industry, give a premium to the foreign competitor, levy a penalty upon machinery, and impose a fine upon the employment of British capital in manufactures [renewed cheers].

So much for the safety of a compromise—now for its permanence. He gave full credit to Lord Ashley for his sacrifices of political ambition and connexion in this cause; but Lord Ashley had declared that he would never rest satisfied without a restriction to ten hours. Mr Fielden had expressed his resolve to continue the struggle for a restriction to eight; so that if a compromise were made for eleven hours there would be no chance at all of its permanence. He now came to the second course—that of abandoning the measure. Now, the House had already sanctioned some important improvements included in it, and he was not disposed to throw away the advantage of these.

The limitation of the hours of labour of children—that portion of the working classes which, as a general principle, is most entitled to the protection of the legislature—with respect to children, almost by common consent, an important change has been effected. At present children work eight hours a day; the committee have passed a clause limiting their hours of labour to six hours and a half; and, with respect to a most important point—the education of children employed in manufactures—it has been decided that no child shall be permitted to work during the forenoon and afternoon of the same day. I am not disposed to throw away the advantages of these new arrangements, sanctioned, as they have been, by a committee of this House, nor am I disposed to give up the arrangements contained in the present bill, to which I believe that I can confidently ask the House to give their consent.

He therefore preferred the third course, of introducing a new bill which should embody them. The government, he fairly announced, would adhere to their intention of not including in it any limitation of

time to less than twelve hours. He would not ask that the decision of the House, upon the substitution of a new bill, should be pronounced now, if any member wished that time should be taken till Friday.

Lord ASHLEY desired that time might be taken till Friday. He besought the House to adhere to its repeated decisions, and deprecated any allusion to the proceedings of Jack Cade.

I deplore that the right hon. gentleman should have thought it necessary to go out of his way in order to describe the present motion as "the beginning a course of Jack Cade legislation" (loud and repeated cheers). However, sir, I am not ashamed of, nor will I repudiate, the title. Let me ask the House what was it gave birth to Jack Cade (hear, hear)? Was it not that the people were writhing under oppressions which they were not able to bear (hear, hear)? It was because the government refused to redress their grievances that the people took the law into their own hands; and I tell the right hon. baronet, and those with whom he acts, that, if they take not better care, this will be the effect again; and that, when they designate the people they oppress as rebels, with a Jack Cade for their leader, they are only, in my opinion, adding insult to injustice (loud and repeated cheering).

Lord HOWICK thought it an extraordinary course for government to say to the House—if you will needs regulate more than we propose to regulate, we will not regulate at all. He would not acquiesce in that dictation. He hoped that the House would on Friday resist the discharge of the order for proceeding with the present bill. He advised Lord Ashley to adhere to it as it stood, and not encounter the difficulty of having to insert his ten-hour clause in a new bill of the government, which bill the government would drop, as they had dropped this, if Lord Ashley should carry that clause. He believed that the operatives wished to see their wives and children protected from excessive labour. Sir J. Graham's argument against the principle of limiting human industry at all was defeated by his own proposal for restricting labour to twelve hours.

Mr BROTHERTON regretted that government did not adopt the intermediate limitation of time.

Captain ROUS protested against the intermeddling disposition of the advocates for limitation of time.

After some mutual explanations between Mr V. Smith and Sir J. Graham,

Sir R. INGLIS desired to know, as Sir J. Graham had said he was stating the sentiments of the government, whether the first minister adopted the allusion to Jack Cade.

Sir J. GRAHAM explained, that he had used that phrase, which he had quoted from a periodical work lately published, in reference only to the project for the universal restriction of labour.

Mr BERNAL recommended it to Lord Ashley to reject the advice of Lord Howick.

Mr FERRAND renewed the inquiry about the meaning of the allusion to Jack Cade.

Sir J. GRAHAM said, that the phrase he had quoted had been applied by him only to the ulterior project of legislating for all kinds of labour, and had not been intended by him to refer at all to any individual member, still less to a large party of members.

Lord J. RUSSELL observed, that the principle of restricting the labour of young persons by legislation was not a new one. It was adopted in this very bill; so that ministers were too late now to rely on the general rule that no interference was admissible. The real question was, whether the particular extent of interference now proposed would have an injurious effect on the labourers, in the diminution of their wages.

Mr HUME had heard Sir J. Graham's statement with much satisfaction. The government had a responsibility not attaching to private individuals, and it was wise to proceed thus cautiously. He was adverse to the general principle of restriction.

Mr C. BULLER explained what he had said on Friday last, considering himself to have been misunderstood by Sir J. Graham.

Sir R. PEEL said that this was not a departmental question, but one upon which the cabinet had exercised their joint deliberation, having in view the benefit of the working classes themselves; and he trusted that on Friday the subject would be discussed with the calmness which befitted it.

Lord SANDON counseled Lord Ashley to allow the substitution of another bill for this. He repeated, however, his desire to see a ten hours' clause enacted, relying on testimony given by a considerable number of masters. The testimony of one master, given thus against his own interest, ought clearly to outbalance the testimony of many who contended only for retaining a profit to themselves.

Mr MORRISON believed that when the operatives should come to understand this question, and should see that the fall of their wages would be the consequence of the change, their wishes would be adverse to a ten hours' clause.

Lord STANLEY assured Lord Ashley that the reason of the government for resisting his proposal was not insensibility to its importance, but an apprehension that its effect would be to counteract his own benevolent views.

Mr HAWES reminded the government that, if this interference should reduce wages, they would have it in their power to compensate that reduction by repealing the corn laws.

Mr Aglionby, Mr Ewart, Dr Bowring, Mr Mitchell, Mr Escott, and Mr Brocklehurst wound up the debate, and then the question of the Factories bill was postponed till Friday.

CONTROVERTED ELECTIONS.

Sir R. PEEL moved for a select committee to inquire whether any amendment would be desirable in the existing law for the trial of controverted elections. He did not propose to refer to that commit-

tee the important question whether any change were requisite in the principle of this law.

Mr GIBBORNE stated, that (exclusively of four committees whose proceedings had terminated in compromise) twenty-five had decided according to the politics of the majority of their members, and only eight against their politics. He adverted to the grievance of frivolous petitions, and proposed that costs should always be paid by the loser, unless the committee certified to the contrary. He suggested also that some facilities should be afforded for the admission of undisputed points without proof.

Mr COLLETT complained of the iteration of petitions touching the same seat, under Lord J. Russell's act.

Sir G. GREY thought that any suggestions on particular points might be most usefully made to the proposed committee. He wished to know whether Sir R. Peel meant to refer to them the expediency of appointing a legal adviser to assist each tribunal.

Sir R. PEEL was understood to say, that this question might properly be considered by the committee. He doubted the expediency of Mr Gibborn's proposal as to costs.

The motion was agreed to.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

**THE FACTORIES BILL.**—The five gentlemen whose strange votes against both propositions reduced Friday night's whole proceedings to a nullity, were—W. Aldam, Leeds; Captain Archdall, County Fermanagh; William Ewart, Dumfries; John Martin, Tewkesbury; George Palmer, Essex. The following Tory members, who had been absent from the Factory divisions on Monday night, voted with the government, and against Lord Ashley, on Friday, March 22:—Peter Allix, Hon. Hugh Arbuthnot, Joseph Bailey (Worcester), Matthew Bell, Sir J. Y. Buller (Devonshire), William Ralph Cartwright, Hon. Francis Charteris, Sir William Follett, Robert Blagden Hale, Sir W. Heathcote (Hants), John Irving, Sir W. G. Hylton Jolliffe, Hon. W. S. Lascelles, Thomas Philip Maunsell, Colonel Powell (Cardigan-shire), Hon. Captain Rous, Charles Russell (Reading), Sir H. Beauchamp Seymour, Thomas Sheppard, Henry Stuart (Bedford), Harry S. Waddington, Hon. E. T. Yorke (Cambridge). The following liberal members, absent from the divisions on Monday night, voted with the government, and against Lord Ashley, on Friday, March 22:—Raikes Currie, William C. Hayter, Stewart Marjoribanks, James Morrison (Inverness), William Ord, Henry George Ward, William Beattie Wrightson. Mr O'Connell and Mr Morgan O'Connell, absent on Monday night, voted with Lord Ashley, on Friday, March 22. Captain Gladstone, M.P. for Ipswich, and Mr Sturt, M.P. for Dorset, who had voted with Lord Ashley on Monday night, absented themselves from the division on Friday night. Lord J. Russell paired with Sir J. C. Hobhouse for Lord Ashley's amendments; as did Mr John S. Wortley with Mr C. Wood. Mr Wortley was absent solely through illness. Mr Aaron Chapman, who had voted with Lord Ashley on Monday, was kept away on Friday by domestic affliction; and Lord Alfred Paget, who had also voted with Lord Ashley in the previous debates, was absent on Friday, in consequence of the death of Lady Uxbridge. Dr Bowring, who voted with the government on Monday, was absent from the division on Friday, March 22. Mr Loch paired off, in favour of the clause proposed by the government in the Factories bill, with Lord Francis Egerton. Mr Drax paired off, in favour of Lord Ashley's bill, with Mr Attwood, against it. We hear that Mr W. H. Stanton, the whig member for Stroud, who had not voted on the former night, went down into the country, on purpose to consult his constituents, and came back again, saying that they had no objection to the ten hours' amendment. He consequently voted with Lord Ashley.—*Standard*.

**THE CONVOCATION.**—Mr Peter Borthwick is to move, next Tuesday, that a humble address be presented to her Majesty, praying that her Majesty would be graciously pleased to direct that parliament in all matters ecclesiastical should receive the advice of the clergy in convocation assembled, according to the constitution and ancient practice of this realm.

**IRISH STATE PROSECUTIONS.—MONSTER PETITION.**—Mr Wyse on Thursday evening presented the petition, of which he had given notice on Tuesday, from the members of the Repeal Association of Ireland, and others, complaining of the manner in which the late state prosecutions had been conducted, and praying that an immediate inquiry might be granted, with a view of enabling the petitioners to establish the truth of the allegations contained therein. The petition contained 821,334 signatures from persons in every part of Ireland. The motion for bringing up the petition having been put and carried, much merriment was created by the futile attempt of the hon. member to lift it from the ground. Mr O'Connell, Sir H. W. Barron, and Mr J. Collett, however, immediately came to his aid, and by their united exertions the immense mass of parchment, which formed a cube of four feet long, two feet six inches wide, and one foot six inches high, as packed up, was placed upon the table, amidst the cheers and laughter of both sides of the House. Mr Wyse then moved that the petition be read at length by the clerk of the House, which was accordingly done; after which the hon. member gave notice that on Monday next he would move that the petition be printed. [This petition measures more than nine thousand two hundred feet in length—nearly two English miles.]

**REPEAL OF THE UNION.**—On Friday Mr O'Connell presented petitions from different parts of Ireland praying for repeal, signed by 180,000 persons. Also one to the same effect from Liverpool, with 31,000 signatures.

**THE ANATOMY ACT.**—Mr Borthwick presented a

petition from the borough of Marylebone against the working of the Anatomy act. The petitioners stated that the bodies of 600 paupers had been dissected annually, many of which had been obtained clandestinely, and that many of them had been disposed of by retail at University College by the joint, at a profit of 2,000 per cent. They also stated that the remains of 356 had been buried in unconsecrated ground, one of the sexton's men representing a clergyman, and reading the funeral service.

**THE TEN HOURS' BILL.**—Lord Ashley presented ninety-one petitions from the manufacturing districts of the West Riding of Yorkshire in favour of the ten hours' restriction. Mr Fielden presented a similar petition, we believe, from Oldham.

**IMPORT DUTIES.**—Mr Ewart has given notice that he will renew his motion on this subject on the House going into a committee of supply.

New writs were issued—on Wednesday, for Hastings, in the room of Mr Joseph Planta; on Thursday, for Christchurch, in the room of Sir G. H. Rose; both members having accepted the stewardship of the Chiltern hundreds.

**THE EASTER RECESS.**—In answer to a question from Lord J. Russell on Monday, Sir R. Peel stated that he should move this day week that the House adjourn over the usual time, namely, until Monday week from that day.

#### HOUSE OF LORDS.

Thursday, March 21st.

##### ECCLIASTICAL COURTS BILL.

The second reading of the bill was moved by

The LORD CHANCELLOR, who gave a sketch of the history of all the attempts to legislate on the subject of the ecclesiastical courts, from the issuing of the ecclesiastical commission, in 1829, down to the abandonment by the government of their bill of last year. Last year a bill had been introduced by a member of her Majesty's government; but though carried on the second reading, it was found impossible to proceed with it. It was accordingly modified, and referred, *pro forma*, to a committee, but at too late a period of the session to be proceeded with. This was the measure which he now conceived it necessary to introduce to their lordships.

The chief objects of the present bill are the union of the court of Arches and the Prerogative court, the abolition of the various courts of peculiars, the amalgamation of the provincial courts of Canterbury and York, &c. But though the abolition of the diocesan courts was one of the recommendations of the ecclesiastical commission, it has not been adopted in the present bill, which constitutes its prime distinction from the bill of last year.

Lord COTTENHAM followed in an argument of considerable length, against the retention of diocesan courts, pointing out their inconvenience to suitors, and urging the importance of a central court of registry. Any measure for the re-construction of the ecclesiastical courts was too important not to be rendered as perfect as possible; for it could not be expected that parliament, after passing such a bill as this, would consent, in a year or so, to abolish the diocesan courts. The great objection, he believed, to the bill of last year, was the absence of compensation to the country proctors. In the present bill, though their offices were not abolished, they were to be compensated for the loss of business arising from the transfer of it to the diocesan courts by the abolition of the courts of peculiars. Looking upon the bill as full of imperfections, and in order to enable the government to introduce a more perfect measure, he moved, as an amendment, that it be read that day six months.

The Bishop of LONDON, one of the commissioners who signed the original report, supported the bill, as the best that the legislature was in a condition to pass. The practice of the diocesan courts had not inspired him with a very high reverence for their law; but part of their jurisdiction could not very well be transferred to other courts, and it was perhaps going too far to abolish them.

Lord BROUGHAM assented to the bill on somewhat similar grounds; describing the difficulties that he had encountered in a bill which he brought in many years ago: if he saw one deputation he saw two or three hundred—if he received one memorial he received five hundred.

Lord CAMPBELL opposed the measure; insisting on the incapacity of the ecclesiastical courts, and asking what the church had to do with civil questions of property?

The LORD CHANCELLOR said he, with the rest of the cabinet, had anxiously wished to carry into effect the plan proposed by the ecclesiastical commissioners, and the present bill was, as nearly as possible, a copy of the bill as it passed through committee in the other house last year. The amendment was negatived without a division, and the bill read a second time. To be committed on Tuesday next.

Friday, March 22nd.

Lord CAMPBELL presented a petition from presbyterians at Stafford, against the Dissenters' Chapels bill. In presenting the petition he must say that he did not concur in the prayer of it. He was prepared to support the bill. He wished to know when his noble and learned friend proposed proceeding with the second reading. There was great anxiety on the subject. The Lord Chancellor said, from the nature of this bill he wished it to be as widely circulated and as well understood as possible, before he proceeded with it. He proposed that the second reading should take place immediately after Easter.

**LANDLORD ASPERSIONS.**—The Earl of Radnor complained of a statement made by a noble Earl (Harewood), at a meeting in Yorkshire, the inference from which was, that the Anti-corn-law League incited to incendiarism. The Duke of Buccleuch said

his noble friend Earl Harewood had admitted that he had made the statement referred to, but denied that the inference drawn from it was correct. Lord Beaumont was sure the noble earl never meant to make such an imputation. The Marquis of Normanby regretted that noble lords would make speeches from which objectionable inferences might be drawn.

**HAND-LOOM WEAVERS.**—Lord Lilford presented a petition from 5,000 inhabitants of Leigh in Lancashire, complaining of evasion of the Arbitration act, and praying for enactments to protect hand-loom weavers against encroachments of their masters; for the establishment of a board of trade composed of masters and workmen; and for a select committee to inquire into unjust "abatements" from their wages. The Earl of Dalhousie said that an alteration of the Arbitration act relating to abatements of wages was under consideration by the government. The case of the operative silk-weavers had been repeatedly the subject of legislative interference, but their position had been very little benefited by it.

The royal assent was given to the Three-and-a-half per Cent. Annuities bill, the Three-and-a-half per Cent. Annuities (1818) bill, and the Gaming Transactions (Witnesses' Idemnity) bill.

Monday, March 25th.

#### INTERFERENCE WITH LABOUR.

Lord BROUGHAM, in presenting a petition relative to the employment of women in mines, strongly declared his opinion against any limitation of the hours of labour in factories. It was flying in the face of Providence; and it would be grossly inconsistent, unless they went on to prohibit employment in all deleterious occupations.

Now, how far was this course of legislation to be carried? Were they to call on the legislature to provide so that dropsy should not be the lot of one man in consequence of his exposure to atmospheric changes, or that other complaints arising from their employments should not afflict other men? Would any noble lord or hon. member of the other house consent to a law which would prohibit his coachman from driving him to a party and then waiting for him until five o'clock in the morning, to the inevitable injury of the servant's constitution? Were no more races to be run for amusement, not for the purposes of gambling (for he did not mean to say anything offensive), by the introduction of a measure to prevent an infant from being taken at seven years of age and half starved, to reduce him to the condition of a dwarf, that, at eighteen or twenty, he might be of the proper weight required for riding the handicap ["Hear," and laughter]? Was that, he would ask, the legislation they were to proceed with? Such, however, was the course which was opened to them by those who exclaimed so much on the subject of factories, and were very prodigal of their own advice and of other people's money [hear, hear].

He made the following quotation from the opinion of Sir Samuel Romilly, in reference to restricting the employment of children in factories:—

"I," said he, "will do no such thing as support such a bill. Can you stop your legislation there? Have you no recollection of other trades? Do you forget the glass blowers—the coal-heavers—the steel filemakers, who are inhaling the seeds of pulmonary disease 'from morn till dewy eve'—the painters, who breathe an atmosphere poisoned by the fumes of white lead—the brass-founders, who handle and manufacture brass in all its forms, and who are in consequence often paralysed by it? Before you proceed with restrictions in matters of this kind, reflect that Providence has so ordered it—and doubt whether you can interfere satisfactorily. Above all things (said he, and this particularly referred to the employment of children) beware that you do not introduce something artificial in the place of those parental affections which Providence has, most wisely and beneficially, implanted in the human breast. Beware lest, in taking this course of legislation, you proceed to stifle, to drown, to extinguish those natural affections which are the real and legitimate support and protection of children" [hear].

They might as well legislate that only a certain amount of wages should be paid. He hoped that parliament would well consider before they listened to the humanity doctrines of the day on matters so vitally important to the country.

**LEVEE.**—The Queen held a levee on Wednesday last, at St James's Palace, which was numerously attended. Various addresses were presented, and, among the petitions, one praying her Majesty to remove her present ministers, by Sir Henry W. Barron, and from 15,600 magistrates and freeholders of Canada, remonstrating against the removal of the seat of government to Montreal, by Mr Atcheson.

**PRINCE ALBERT.**—The departure of Prince Albert, to visit his illustrious relatives at Gotha, is definitively fixed for Thursday next. His Royal Highness embarks at Woolwich at an early hour, and fully intends to be in England by the 10th or 11th of next month.—*Times*.

It is said that the Postmaster-general, now Earl of Lonsdale, intends to relinquish his office so soon as arrangements can be made for the appointment of his successor.—*Morning Post*.

Dr Paris, F.R.S., has been chosen to the presidency of the college of physicians.

A correspondent of the *Limerick Reporter* states, that at the Birmingham meeting Mr Sturge conducted Mr Sharman Crawford to where Mr O'Connell was. The latter gentleman shook hands most cordially, upon which Mr Sturge observed, "That is a union which I sincerely hope will never be repealed."

Overseers and ratepayers in parliamentary boroughs should, if possible, postpone making a poor's rate until after the 6th of April, as by making a rate before that time they may disfranchise many of their fellow parishioners, who, from ignorance, or some other cause, may omit to pay the rate in sufficient time to qualify themselves to be on the next year's register.

**THE REPROACH OF AMERICAN FREEMEN.**—In a former number of the *Nonconformist*, we gave an account of a case that has lately occurred in the United States, in which J. L. Brown, of Wimsbro', South Carolina, has been condemned to death at New Orleans, for assisting a female slave to escape from thralldom. The matter has justly excited a great deal of interest and indignation in this country, although but little display of feeling in reference to so foul a blot on humanity has taken place in the United States. We rejoice to find that the matter is being taken up by Christian churches, and have received a copy of a memorial from "ministers and members of Christian churches of the congregational order in the county of Lancashire, to the churches of Christ in the state of South Carolina," expressive of the abhorrence, by the former, of the law by which J. L. Brown is sentenced to death. The memorial is too long for insertion in our columns, but we subjoin the concluding paragraph:—

In the most solemn manner we entreat your immediate attention to the case of the condemned citizen: he is—he was a freeman, and awaits an ignominious death because he would make another share his freedom. This is his sentence—a sentence which, if executed, will make the civilised world stand aghast, and sink America beneath the lowest depth of barbarian dishonour. We entreat you in the name of all that is sacred, in the precious name of Him whose gospel is the basis of our and your hope for salvation, to combine your best energies in expunging so dark a blot from the banner of your country's shield, as is caused by its present association with slavery. If you cannot do this for your country, we implore you as churches to endeavour to rescue the condemned person from the death of a malefactor. We beseech and implore you to show, by some prompt, united, and decided act, that your holy faith denounces both the general principle of slavery and its fearful result, as portrayed in this calamitous transaction. Proclaim to the world and to all the churches of our common Lord, that the spirit of the divine gospel emboldens you to protest in the loudest and clearest tones against this daring violation of its benign precepts. In this act of obedience to Him who died and rose again, you will endear yourselves to your brethren in Christ everywhere; and remove from your consciences a load of guilt which otherwise must oppress your soul, and incur the frown and indignation of God, the judge of all.—We are, &c.

The memorial is accompanied by the following letter of explanation:—

"To the Congregational Ministers in the County of Lancashire.

"DEAR SIR—Should you approve of this memorial to American churches, your signature is urgently requested without delay. The subject was discussed by a committee of the Lancashire Independent College, and the preparation of the memorial entrusted to brethren who should send it forth as soon as possible. Promptitude is required, that the document may be despatched by the first ship sailing to America. The subscription of your deacons, as well as your own, is especially desired, as the representatives of your church. Dr Raffles's signature will be the first, and it is hoped not a minister, professor, or student for the ministry, will withhold their name. As one of the brethren to whom the task was assigned, I lose not a moment, after having received the draught from Liverpool, in transmitting a copy to you. An early answer will oblige, dear sir, faithfully yours,

"J. W. MASSIE.

"Lower Broughton, Manchester, March 23rd, 1844."

In reference to this memorial, Mr Joseph Soul has published an address "To the pastors and deacons of the independent, baptist, and other denominations of professing Christians, in the United Kingdom," urging the universal signing of this remonstrance, and stating "that any papers, intended to go out by the next packet (which is the only one available for this purpose), should be transmitted to Mr Massie, so as to be in Manchester on the 3rd of April; or I will take charge of, and forward any such, if sent to me not later than that day." Mr Soul's address is at the Anti-slavery office, 27, New Broad street. We need hardly say that we most cordially second these appeals, and trust that they will be promptly responded to, not only by the Christian public, but by all who are concerned for the honour of human nature, and the preservation of a noble-minded man from an ignominious and utterly undeserved death.

**THE NEW ZEALAND COMPANY.**—A meeting of the shareholders of this company was held on Tuesday week, at the offices in Broad street, for the purpose of taking into consideration the general state of the affairs of the company, and adopting such measures as might thereon be deemed expedient. A report was read, from which it appears, that in consequence of the want of support from the ministers of the crown, the directors of the company have been obliged to suspend the proceedings of the company as a colonising body. The meeting adjourned for a fortnight to await the result of a further representation of the affairs to the colonial secretary.

**THE MINERS' ASSOCIATION.**—A conference of the Miners' Association of Great Britain and Ireland, which is exciting much interest, was to be held at Glasgow, on Monday, the 25th inst. A programme of the intended proceedings has fallen into the hands of the police, and contains, amongst its forty-two propositions, one for establishing a law fund, another for placing Mr W. P. Roberts, of Bath, "the miners' attorney-general," in the centre of England, and a third for observing Thursday, April 5th, as a general holiday, to receive the reports of the delegates.

The late crop of oranges in Portugal is said to have been the finest seen for a quarter of a century. The best were selling in Lisbon at eight a penny.

**THE LARGEST ROOM.**—It is stated to be the fact, that the largest room that ever was constructed is that in which the tobacco stores are kept, in the London Docks. That room is said to cover nearly six acres, being, of course, under one roof.

The cost of a hogshead of tobacco of 1,200 lbs, varies from 14*l.* to 25*l.*, while the duty alone is 189*l.*—*Liverpool Mercury.*

**A LUCKY CONVICT.**—George Maddon, who was convicted at York March assizes, 1831, for the robbery of the Doncaster betting room, is living at a place called Austen's ferry, 11 miles from Hobart town, and is married to a woman long settled in the colony, worth £500 a year, having got his freedom when only two years in the country, for finding the mail bags. He runs his carriage and a pair of horses.—*Standard.*

It may be useful to some timid railway travelers to state that the furious puffing of the engine shows the safety valve is open, and explosion impossible.

### Postscript.

Wednesday, March 27th.

### HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The principal business before the House last night was the introduction of a bill by Colonel Wood, relative to Welsh grievances, Mr Hutt's motion on the subject of the admission of colonial corn, and Sir G. Staunton's motion for a pension to Dr Morrison's family.

**TURNPIKE TOLLS IN WALES.**—Colonel Wood's (Brecon) bill proposes to exempt from toll all lime conveyed on any turnpike road in Wales. He explained the general purport of the acts of parliament that regulate this subject in Wales, and the great hardship with which this toll, an impost on manure, is found to bear on the small agriculturists in Wales; indeed he believed it to have been really the primary cause of all the late disturbances there. While lime bore the heavy toll he thus complained of, the artificial manures in general, such as guano and bone dust, paid no duty at all. Mr Hume said this was an attempt to relieve the landowners by relieving the farmers; and he objected to any measure that went to relieve these classes from burdens borne by other people. Mr Manners Sutton would not object to the introduction of the bill; but was not prepared to support it in its future stages. Mr Labouchere thought that if government would not support the bill, they ought not to allow of its introduction. On a division, the motion to bring in the bill was carried by 68 to 42.

**ADMISSION OF COLONIAL CORN.**—Mr Hutt then moved for a committee of the whole House upon the expediency of allowing corn to be imported from the British possessions in South Africa, India, and Australasia, at the same duty as from Canada. Those possessions had a stronger claim to this relief than Canada, because, being at a greater distance, they were more exposed to the disadvantages of the sliding scale. They were all of them corn-producing and corn-exporting countries; Van Diemen's Land, in particular, produced wheat of most excellent quality, and there was a probability that freights would not in future be too high to leave a profit upon corn brought hither from those countries. He called upon the government to carry out their own principles, and deal equally with all these possessions. If the colonies were liberally treated, they would retain their allegiance to the mother country; but if they were sacrificed to the party considerations which operated at home, they would fling your alliance to the winds. Mr Mangles seconded the motion, with a view especially to Indian interests. Mr Gladstone opposed the measure on various grounds. The colonies specified in this motion were not properly and habitually corn-exporting countries to European markets, though they might occasionally bring over a little corn. There were peculiar circumstances in the Canadian case which distinguished it from the case of the other colonies; in particular, the Canadian measure was accompanied with a condition that the legislature of the Canadas should impose a duty on corn imported into them. This motion involved anomalies as great as those it sought to redress. If the principle of it were sound, why had not Prince Edward's Island been included, which was habitually a corn-exporting country? He would not consent to entertain a motion of which the tendency was to produce, whether with more or with less reason, a panic among the agriculturists of England. Mr Labouchere thought that to keep together the mighty fabric of our colonial empire, it was essential that equal justice should be afforded to its various parts; and therefore he was ready to vote for the motion. Lord Stanley did not think it worth their while, for so slight and inappreciable a benefit to the colonies, to disturb so sensitive and delicate an interest as the agriculture of this country. Mr Hawes was amazed that so small a portion of corn as was alleged could come from our colonies would have the effect of creating a universal panic. The real secret was, that ministers had come under obligations to maintain the corn laws—but no minister would dare to maintain them, or affirm that he would do so in years of deficiency. After a few words from Mr Ewart, the House rejected the motion by 117 to 47; majority, 70.

**PENSION TO DR MORRISON'S FAMILY.**—Sir G. Staunton moved for a committee of the whole House, to consider of an address to the Crown in favour of the widow and family of the late Dr Morrison, on the ground of his eminent public services in China, eulogised in a proclamation of Sir Henry Pottinger. He accompanied the motion with a biographical sketch of Dr Morrison's life. Sir John Hobhouse seconded the resolution. Sir R. Peel, while he praised in the highest terms the services of Dr and Mr Morrison, lamented the difficulty of acceding to a proposal which would constitute a precedent of

the most embarrassing description. Unless in some very extraordinary cases, the public could not provide for the families of its servants. [What says the pension list to this?] The pension was not really needed; and he explained that Mrs Morrison had been actually provided for to the extent of £200 a year for herself, and £125 for her five children, being £25 for each; that her eldest son had received an appointment from Lord Aberdeen, of £300 a year, with a prospect of increase to £600; and that an appointment had been promised for the second son, as soon as he should be of an age to receive it. The motion was withdrawn.

### HOUSE OF LORDS.

**THE ECCLESIASTICAL COURTS BILL.**—This measure passed last night through committee; not, however, without considerable opposition. Lord Cottenham moved the expunging of the clause retaining the diocesan courts. The Lord Chancellor defended the clause, on the ground that the bill was a good measure so far as it went. Lord Campbell contended that the government ought to have introduced a more comprehensive measure. After considerable discussion, the clause was carried, on a division, by 47 to 20. The other clauses were then passed.

The Queen of the Belgians arrived at Woolwich, on Monday evening, on a visit to her Majesty.

**METROPOLITAN DRAPERS' ASSOCIATION.**—A meeting of the Islington district branch of the above association was held at the Parochial school room, the Rev. D. Wilson, vicar, in the chair. The meeting was addressed by the Rev. Mr Auriol, Rev. Mr Hughes, and the Rev. Mr Venn, Messrs Owen, Foskey, and other gentlemen, and resolutions were unanimously agreed to condemnatory of the present late hour system, and calling on the public to assist in removing the evil by abstaining from making purchases at late hours of an evening.—*Times.*

**THE TEN HOURS FACTORY BILL.**—The proceedings of parliament, in reference to this measure, have already aroused the indignation of the operatives of Lancashire. A delegate meeting, from the manufacturing towns, was held on Sunday, and resolutions passed, thanking the supporters of the Ten Hours bill—urging Lord Ashley to persevere—and pledging themselves not to relax their efforts until the measure is carried. A copy of the resolutions was forwarded to the members of parliament who voted on Monday night last week. A curious requisition has been extensively circulated in the city, calling a meeting on the subject. One of the objects of the meeting is "to agree to an address to her Majesty, praying her Majesty to dismiss from her councils for ever Sir James Graham, and all those of his colleagues who have aided and assisted him in such a wicked abuse of the confidence of so good a monarch."

**REPEAL ASSOCIATION.**—At the weekly meeting on Monday, a letter was read from Mr O'Connell, stating, "I wish you to announce to the association that it is my intention to attend at their next meeting. I mean to wait here for Thursday evening, as Lord Eliot on that day brings in his 'Franchise Extinction bill,' and his Corporate Franchise bill. I am to attend a public meeting for justice to Ireland, at Liverpool, on Friday." He then notices the results of his visit to England under six heads, the last two of which run thus:—

"5. It is demonstrated by recent events that the people of England—by, at least, all the valuable classes of society—are not partakers in the iniquities of government, but on the contrary, are anxious that Ireland should be administered in the spirit of justice and impartiality.

"6. It is demonstrated that multitudes of the wise and the good in England are anxious to make the union a reality, by giving a perfect equality of rights to Ireland with those that are possessed by the English. Whilst others—and they are not a few—have discovered that a local legislature in Ireland, legislating for Irish purposes exclusively, would tend to consolidate the connexion between the two countries, and render a separation impossible."

The Repeal rent was announced to be £376.

The *Dublin Evening Mail* reiterates its former assertion, that Sir R. Peel had written a letter to the Irish government, declaring that no promotions must in future be made in the Irish church, unless to such of the clergy as consent to support the national system of education.

**GREECE.**—The *Greek Observer* of the 10th instant states, that the moment the last article of the constitution was voted by the assembly, *viz.* in favour of the constitution and the King resounded through the hall and the galleries reserved to the public, and all the assistants waved their fez and hats in the air, in token of joy. The whole day was one of general rejoicing. At night an illumination took place.

Queen Christina arrived at Aranjuez on the 21st instant.

It appears from a telegraphic despatch that the Duke d'Aumale was pursuing his successes in Algiers.

The Pennsylvania House of Representatives have passed a resolution for the sale of the public works of the State, and the application of the proceeds to the payment of the State debt.

### CORN MARKET. MARK LANE. THIS DAY.

	Wheat	Barley	Oats	Beans	Peas	Flour
English ..	660	28	830			
Scotch....						
Irish ....	..	440	12010			
Foreign ..						

No alteration—very little doing.

## TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"The Two Witnesses." We will look over the paper carefully next week.  
 "Suum Cuique Tributo" will see that there is scarcely any need to give insertion to his letter.  
 The letter from Demerara will be inserted during the Easter week.  
 "Nil Desperandum." No more! No, no! No more!  
 "J. H." We are sorry that the subject is too confined in interest to allow of our inserting the documents he has sent us.

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## The Nonconformist.

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 1844.

## SUMMARY.

THE Factories bill continues to engross the attention of the House of Commons. Lord Ashley's victory has sorely perplexed the Government. They probably see what many of their ordinary supporters are blind to, that a "ten hours bill" and a corn law cannot contemporaneously exist for any long period, and that should the first become law, it will speedily elbow out the last. The candle cannot burn at both ends for any considerable time. The manufacturer must realise a profit—the operative must have subsistence. How far either can bear a diminution the event will show—and, as "the weakest goes to the wall," the working man will be the first sufferer. A general reduction of wages in the cotton and woolen districts will, we apprehend, follow Lord Ashley's amendment, as surely as the shadow follows substance. It is said, the operatives are prepared for this. In some cases this may be true—but we have grave doubts whether it will apply to the class as a whole.

Lord Ashley, it would seem, was not wholly unconscious of the danger of his experiment. He intended to apply his remedy cautiously. It would come into operation by degrees. He proposed, had the House sanctioned his views, to enact that twelve hours, the present duration of labour, should be left without interference until the first of October—that from that date, until October, 1846, eleven hours should constitute the *maximum*—and that thereafter, in factory districts, ten hours should be the permanent limit of restriction. This caution, however, did not reconcile ministers to their defeat. They determined upon another trial of strength, and it came off on Friday night last. The House having gone into committee, the noble member for Dorsetshire moved, in the eighth clause which enacts that young persons and women are not to be employed more than twelve hours daily, the substitution of the word "ten" for "twelve." A discussion ensued, in which the noble lord himself, Mr Monckton Milnes, Mr Vernon Smith, Mr Brotherton, Lord John Manners, Mr Charles Buller, and Mr Thomas Duncombe, took part in favour of the amendment, and Sir William Clay, Mr Cardwell, Mr Ward, and Sir James Graham, against it. The debate elicited no additional facts, nor any novelty in the statement of them. The committee divided on the question that "twelve" stand part of the bill. The votes were 183 for it—186 against it—majority against ministers, 3. The next question put was that "ten" stand part of the bill; and the division showed, 181 for it—188 against it—majority against Lord Ashley, 7. Thus, the proposition of the government and that of Lord Ashley shared the same fate—both having been negatived. All further proceedings on the bill were then postponed till Monday, to allow both parties time for deliberation.

The subject came under notice again on Monday evening, when Sir James Graham stated the course which government proposed to pursue. They reject all idea of compromise—they will not, on the other hand, leave matters where they are at present—they will ask leave to withdraw the present bill with a view to introduce a new one, to alter and amend the existing law. But as the new bill will limit the labour of children and young persons in factories, in accordance with the recent decisions of the House of Commons, and will also restrict the labour of adult females within twelve hours, we do not see what other object will be gained, than the opportunity which will thereby be afforded to ministers to test the House two or three times more. The government will defeat Lord Ashley or resign. This question will be decided on Friday next, when Sir James Graham will move that the order of the day for going into committee on the factories bill be read, for the purpose of having it discharged. The Home Secretary, with his customary infelicity, excited not a

little ill-blood among his present opponents, by adopting a phrase from the *Examiner*, and characterising the course upon which Lord Ashley was venturing, as a "Jack Cade system of legislation." To our view, the most sensible speech of the evening was that of Captain Rous—with whom we entirely agree, that "governments have quite enough to do to look after their own business."

Whether owing to the absorbing character of the above-mentioned subject, or to the distaste of the government and the squirearchy for all questions which claim kinship to the principles of commercial freedom, certain it is that the free-traders have twice failed, during the week, of inducing the House to discuss their questions. Thus, on Tuesday se'nnight, Mr Ricardo's motion against "reciprocity treaties" was disposed of, after a speech or two, by counting out the House; and on Thursday evening, Mr Ewart's, for repealing the duties which press on the raw materials of manufacture, especially those of the cotton and woolen trade, was thrust aside, before the honourable member had proceeded far in his speech, by the same miserable manœuvre. Mr Ricardo may content himself with having drawn from the President of the Board of Trade a virtual admission of the soundness of his argument, and from Lord Howick, a speech in favour of his proposition, of great ability and unusual decision; but Mr Ewart had no such consolation—no such appearance of triumph in defeat. He therefore gave notice, on Friday night, of resorting in self-defence to Mr Sharman Crawford's weapon of attack, by moving his question as an amendment to the first motion made for going into a committee of supply. Perhaps the free-traders will find themselves driven upon the adoption of that plan at last. They might have made it tell at the commencement of the session—but its boldness alarmed them—and now, it is all but useless. Mistakes, however, purchase experience.

The House of Lords has busied itself upon an Ecclesiastical Courts bill, introduced to its notice by the Lord Chancellor. The report of the ecclesiastical commissioners presented several years ago had recommended the suppression of the numerous diocesan courts, and also of the courts of peculiars. The diocesan courts, however, according to the Lord Chancellor, although perfect nuisances, are nevertheless hoary with age, and therefore objects of veneration. They are consequently to be preserved, and competent barristers are to be appointed to preside therein. Why this favour is not to be extended to the courts of peculiars, is left unexplained. It is curious to observe how every separate class of legislators endeavour to make the current of law turn the wheel of their own mill. By preserving and remodeling the diocesan courts, some three hundred and odd places will crave to be filled by barristers—no trifling addition to the resources of these gentlemen. The bill is a job worthy of Chancellor Lyndhurst's fame. It is one, however, which will attract the notice of a very few—and the majority of those few will have a prospective interest in its perpetration. The repair of a "black hole" may be not without its recommendations to builders—the remodeling of ecclesiastical courts may enlist the sympathies of lawyers—but in both cases the public will be likely to manifest a profound indifference—and yet this is one of the topics upon which her Majesty has more than once touched in her speeches to parliament, and, possibly, for this very reason.

The death of Bernadotte, King of Sweden and Norway, claims from us a passing notice. Born in 1764, the son of a respectable lawyer at Pau, he filled successively the posts of Minister of War under the Directory, ambassador at Vienna under Napoleon, marshal, and administrator of government in the regions round about the Elbe, Crown Prince of Sweden, and ultimately King of Sweden and Norway. He was, unquestionably, the best man among those of the Emperor's generals who obtained a throne, and the only one who kept possession of his elevated seat. Sagacious as he was, and for the most part moderate as was his administration, constitutional government in his hands was constantly verging towards absolutism, and his struggles with the press and with the Chambers proved how insecure would be the liberties of the people, if entrusted to monarchical hands, even the most respectable. He was far from popular among his own subjects.

Greece has at length completed her constitution, and, according to the light which she possesses, has acted her part with admirable propriety. Her established church and several other of her constitutional maxims, whilst they will not stand the test of enlightened examination, are so interwoven with the system of modern statesmanship, that their enactment causes us no surprise. Greece has now taken her place amongst the constitutional kingdoms of Europe. May her career be worthy of her ancient and illustrious name!

And now, coming nearer home, we may just notice, as another sign of the times and the tendency of everything to raise up foes against the establishment, the formidable agitation on foot in Ireland, on the subject of presbyterian marriages. Irish presbyterians have been the willing support-

ers of that greatest of all anomalies—the Irish state church. Well! They have got their reward. The church turns round, and, whilst it insults, contrives also to wound them in their tenderest part. They are, therefore, up in arms. True, they have not denounced establishments as such—the *regium donum*, which they receive, forbids our expectation of that; but they are assailing, with bitter invective, the haughty assumptions of the authorised priesthood; and are thus doing their part, although they mean it not, to ripen the question of questions, which must be settled in our day.

The case of J. L. Brown, of Wimsbro', South Carolina, who was condemned to death, at New Orleans, for assisting a female slave to escape from thralldom, is exciting great interest and indignation in this country. A memorial to the churches of Christ in the state of South Carolina has been drawn up, to receive the signature of ministers and members of Christian churches of the congregational order in the county of Lancashire. The remonstrance, however, may be adopted by professing Christians of all denominations in the United Kingdom, and we need hardly express our hope that it will. We must refer our readers to the paragraph on this subject, contained in another column.

## THE MINISTERIAL DILEMMA.

No public event, of late years, has been so big with instruction as the recent decisions of the House of Commons on the Factories bill. There is not a single aspect of the subject which is not luminous with moral sentiment. The intolerable evil to be remedied—the vicious policy out of which that evil has arisen—the danger of attempting its cure by direct legislation—the imperious necessity which drives our rulers upon the attempt—the inconsistent and precarious position of government—the parties by whom they are opposed—the line of argument they are compelled to adopt—the impossibility of their escape without serious damage—all these things are eloquent in support of the truth, that retribution evermore follows upon the heels of guilt.

And, first, for the evil. What is it? An overworked population—men subject to ruthless slavery in a free country, doomed to incessant toil, used up as so much raw material for the advantage of others, remunerated with nothing better than a coarse and scanty subsistence, strangers to every wholesome recreation, well nigh excluded from the reach of religious ministrations, living without hope, dying without anticipation or regret—women, wrenched by irresistible poverty from the domestic sphere, denied the cultivation of all the conjugal and maternal sympathies, having homes at which they may not preside, and children whom they must abandon to the care of hirelings, tasking their physical strength beyond the limits prescribed to it by nature, and sinking exhausted into a comparatively early grave—children, neglected in infancy, sent to the factory when they ought to be at school, in whom the spirit of gamesomeness is a misfortune, and who, in earliest days, are converted into living machines, having equally monotonous duty to perform, but not being equally insensible to its irksomeness—and, as the inevitable result of this, a state of social wretchedness, degradation, and depravity, which, whatever may be its alleviations, and however numerous the exceptions which may be pleaded, threatens, at no distant period, the overthrow of society from its present basis. The evil, however, is much larger and much more general than Lord Ashley has described it to be. It pervades all classes of labourers. It is found in the mines—it may be met with at the forge—it wanders abroad in the fields with the peasant—it domesticates itself in a garret with the sempstress—it is the ever-present companion of the poor in Great Britain, whatever may be the precise nature of their employment. All are doomed to too-incessant toil—all reap too scanty a reward—and all, in consequence, are injured intellectually, morally, and spiritually, by the rigorous position they are compelled to occupy.

What has led to this evil? We answer, a chain of causes running back some century, and terminating in the maintenance of a privileged aristocracy. Property, both real and personal, gathered up into few hands—laws facilitating its accumulation rather than its distribution—expensive wars, entered upon to crush the progress of democratic principles—extravagant habits—embarrassment of estates—restrictions imposed on commerce with a view to meet the claims of spendthrift landlords—heavy taxation, so adjusted as to fall chiefly upon the shoulders of the poor—these, and numerous other causes all linked together, and every one of them directly or indirectly consequent upon upholding a privileged class, have depressed industry far beneath its proper position, and have driven millions into eager competition for bread, who, under other circumstances, might have added strength to the empire, and have enjoyed comfort for themselves. It is not this law or the other, that is chargeable with producing this immense amount of evil; the whole system of legislation is to blame, and has at length established a disease,



some symptoms of which are so frightful as to obtrude themselves upon the notice even of the House of Commons.

These symptoms, it appears, the legislature is now proceeding to deal with; for the noble member for Dorsetshire, even if ultimately defeated, which we imagine he will be, has sufficient power at his back to force the most reluctant government into an eventual compromise of their opinions. The experiment, however, is an awful one. The remedy now proposed, however partially applied, will probably in the end be productive of more widespread mischief than the disease. Vicious in principle, it cannot lead to permanently beneficial results. The only way to limit human labour within natural bounds is to render its excess unnecessary. Whilst property is distributed as it is, poverty must be the lot of the many; and so long as the many are close pressed by destitution, the universal scramble for employment will put the workman at the mercy of his employer. In the case of factory labour master and men will be driven by the same relentless necessity. The first effect of Lord Ashley's interference would be to raise the price of goods—the second, to close against them every neutral market—the third, an incalculable diminution of employment—the last, a permanent depression of wages beyond their present level. Then come panics in the money market—failures of banking establishments—increased poor-rates—general discontent, and, in all probability, social insurrection.

But government are sufficiently clear-sighted to discover the inevitable tendency of Lord Ashley's amendment. They dare not adopt it; for its adoption would ultimately lead, through many scenes of misery, to the overthrow of aristocracy itself. A large section of their supporters, however, provoked into furious hostility against the manufacturing system by the success of the Anti-corn-law League, have lent their aid to insure a ministerial defeat. They have succeeded. The embarrassment of the cabinet is now complete. Themselves have been chiefly instrumental in giving power and patting into audacity the party who now deserts them. They intreat, but in vain—remonstrate, but to no purpose. To please their former supporters they refused to widen the gates of commerce; to carry their present point they are compelled to resort to arguments which condemn as unsound and ruinous the whole course of their past policy. All parties are thrown into inextricable confusion. The squirearchy are rushing upon their own fate. Should they succeed, one of two things must happen—our ports must be open for the importation of agricultural produce, or the fabric of our manufacturing system must give way, and bury the privileges of the landowner, together with his wealth, beneath its ruins. The oppressors of the poor—manufacturer as well as agriculturalist—capitalist as well as high-born noble—are now apparently about to reap the bitter fruit of past misdeeds. Selfishness has at length found them out—one and all, it has found them out. All are in peril. To go forward is ruin—to remain where they are is little short of it. All are obliged to resort to inconsistencies. Scarcely a man in the House of Commons feels himself to be in his proper place on this question. Pell-mell is the order of the day. We know not what will come out of it; but of one thing we are certain—that the triumph of neither party will advance the interests of the aristocracy. We are at the beginning of a revolution, the end of which none can foresee.

#### COUNTING OUT.

BAD paymasters are reckoned to be of two kinds—those who pay beforehand, and those who never pay at all. Into some such division we may range popular representatives—those who give to a minister all that he asks for, and then state the grievances of their constituents, and those who demand redress, but refuse to government all requisite means of support. Of the latter class of politicians there is not, that we are aware of, any specimen extant in this country—they are to be found chiefly in the western hemisphere. The former comprises almost every party in the House of Commons—and they who have most to urge upon the attention of ministers, seem equally reluctant to urge it at the right time, as those who are willing to leave everything in their hands.

We have been particularly struck with the parliamentary tactics of the free traders. They have a mighty subject, the vital importance of which might excite their determination to see it fully and fairly discussed. They number amongst their adherents many able speakers. They have the ear of the country. The legislature only is opposed to them. It might have been imagined that men, devoted, as they are, all but exclusively to one range of topics, employed as they have been, and not unsuccessfully, in agitating the public mind, would have felt themselves sufficiently strong, and sufficiently in the right, to justify their taking tolerably high grounds with government. They might have insisted, at least, upon a patient hearing of their case in all its lengths and breadths. Without proceeding to the length of attempting

to stop the supplies, it was open to them to have delayed the passing of them, until the various phases of commercial freedom had been exhibited to the House. No questions could have been more appropriately introduced as amendments to motions for going into committee of supply, than those which relate to the trade of the country. It was not necessary that government should be furnished with the wherewithal, within six weeks of the opening of the session. Suppose Mr Ward, Mr Milner Gibson, Mr Ricardo, Mr Ewart, Mr Hume, Mr Cobden, Mr Villiers, and Mr Bright, to have concerted a connected plan of operations—suppose each gentleman to have raised a discussion on that aspect of the question to which he had given most attention, on successive supply nights—suppose them to have thereby rendered the career of government somewhat less easy, and to have turned it off a velvet path on to a rough and stoney one—what would have been the probable issue? The country would have sympathised with them, and cheered them forward in their arduous but honourable course. Ministers would have been coerced into civility—discussion would have been secured—and although the division lists might not have been improved by such means, yet, seeing that no party expects the present House of Commons to yield the smallest tithe of the free-traders' demands, the great ends to be gained by the introduction of these topics to the notice of a packed majority of landlords, would have been substantially compassed.

The plan of Mr Sharman Crawford was before the country for several months previously to the opening of the session. It was equally available to free traders as to organic reformers. By the former, however, it was not acted upon, even for the limited purpose of securing a fair hearing for themselves. Ministers got their money, and their partisans can now afford to snap their fingers at discussion. Twice during the past week the House of Commons has been counted out, and both times on questions having relation to free trade. These failures, whilst they serve to disgust the country with the legislature, tend, also, not a little to damp the energies of the people. They might have been avoided by taking that step first which Mr Ewart now proposes to do when it is too late to tell. We are astonished that the free trade party did not count upon such treatment. Their mistake has put it into the power of the ministerial majority to treat them with undissembled contempt. They will never have civility from an opposing minister, unless whilst his pockets are empty. Give him his supplies, and he is armed with force enough to set courtesy at defiance. If you consent to pay all his demands, the least that can be required of him is to make him wait until he has heard you out. Too much generosity is a failing in legislators as well as individuals. The old song contains a grave moral—

"The hedge-sparrow fed the cuckoo so long  
That it had its head bit off by its young."

And the lines of Spenser, in his story of Lear, may teach a lesson to parliamentary representatives—

"But true it is, that when the oil is spent  
The light goes out, and wick is thrown away;  
So, when he had resign'd his regiment,  
His daughter 'gan despise his drooping day."

There is not a little wisdom wrapped up in the fool's colloquy with his master—

"Fool.—Can'st tell how an oyster makes his shell?"

"Lear.—No!"

"Fool.—Nor I neither; but I can tell why a snail has a house."

"Lear.—Why?"

"Fool.—Why, to put his head in, not to give it away to his daughters, and leave his horns without a case."

#### A PARALLEL FOR THE REFLECTIVE.

OUR readers will recollect that we gave, about three weeks since, three or four clauses from an agreement between landlord and tenant, which we have reason to believe is extensively adopted by the aristocracy, as illustrations of their determination to make every interest within their reach subserve their own immediate profit or gratification. We were not aware, at that time, that a parallel could be produced from any history, ancient or modern. Since then, however, we have stumbled upon the following, which we extract *verbatim* from Alison's French Revolution—

"The most important operations of agriculture were fettered or prevented by the game laws, and the restrictions intended for their support. Game of the most destructive kind, such as wild boars and herds of deer, were permitted to go at large through spacious districts, without any inclosure to protect the crops. Numerous edicts existed, which prohibited being and weeding, lest the young partridges should be disturbed; mowing hay, lest the eggs should be destroyed; taking away the stubble, lest the birds should be deprived of shelter; manuring with night soil, lest their flavour should be injured. Complaints for the infraction of these edicts were all carried before the manorial courts, where every species of oppression, chicanery, and fraud was prevalent."

The clause in the farming agreement which, under guise of concern for the poor, prohibits the mowing of wheat without the consent of the landlord, turns out, after all, to be no novelty. The French noblesse were beforehand with their brethren on this side the channel, in petty tyranny

if not in hypocrisy. "Taking away the stubble lest the birds should be deprived of shelter," is a fairer statement of the case, than the pretended prevention of gleaning by the use of the scythe in place of the sickle. It is the exactness, however, of the parallel which startles us. And when we observe that, at the recent assizes, poaching offences have been dealt with with uniform severity, we are inclined to believe that the historian of some coming revolution may have to trace to our game laws, and their galling "restrictions upon the operations of agriculture," and to "the oppression, chicanery, and fraud" of our magisterial courts, in relation to every infraction of these laws, no small share of that discontent the throes of which are destined one day to scatter the privileges of class to the four winds of heaven.

#### The Complete Suffrage Movement.

The Council of the National Complete Suffrage Union held their usual weekly meeting at the office, 37, Waterloo street, Birmingham, on Monday afternoon—the President in the chair.

The SECRETARY read the address, agreed to at last meeting, as printed with a few verbal alterations. The following is the address:—

#### THE COUNCIL OF THE NATIONAL COMPLETE SUFFRAGE UNION TO THE PEOPLE OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

THE House of Commons has successfully resisted five amendments, having for their ultimate object the practical enforcement of the constitutional principle, that redress of grievances should precede the voting of supplies. William Sharman Crawford, M.P., with whom the amendments originated, and by whom they were moved, "could not take upon himself the responsibility of carrying the supply movement further during the present session of parliament;" but he "has entered his solemn protest against the competency of the House to make laws, or impose taxes, so long as the great body of the people are unrepresented." And "he wished it to be distinctly understood that he held himself perfectly and entirely free to resume the contest" whenever circumstances might suggest the proper time.

Though the first impression of these facts may be of a discouraging nature, there are circumstances connected with them powerfully calculated to inspire the people with hope. For example—

1st.—The discussions and divisions have shown that there is a constitutional weapon in the hands of a few members of the House of Commons, the true representatives of the people, which may be effectually used at any time the nation demands its application, to secure their full, fair, and free representation. Last session of parliament, the member for Rochdale laboured for more than four months, to bring two substantive motions of parliamentary reform before the House; this session he has succeeded in forcing the discussion of practical grievances, and five different divisions in the course of twenty days. The reports of these discussions in the different newspapers have thrown light on questions of the utmost national importance, and have carried our principles into circles which we never could have reached by the ordinary modes of giving them publicity.

2nd.—These debates have also established the justice of the principle of moving amendments on the supplies. The House of Commons does not attempt to deny, and Sir Robert Peel plainly admits, that a minority has a perfect right to withhold the supplies, when, by so doing, it can hold the misgovernment of an oppressive majority in check. Nor has that House attempted to deny the charges which have been made against it. The ministerial members tacitly admit, by their silence, that they are morally and constitutionally disqualified for governing the people. On this head, the member for Rochdale says—"I have charged the present House of Commons, on the part of the people, in the words of petitions which that House have received and laid upon the table, that they are not entitled to the appellation of representatives of the people, and that therefore they have not a constitutional authority to tax or make laws for the people. They possess an authority by the existing laws," he adds, "which authority must be submitted to, till those laws be changed."

3rd.—The division lists have proved that the people must not only cease to hope for any substantial good from either of the two great political parties in the House, but even from any members who profess to be the advocates of liberal principles. This result was anticipated by the member for Rochdale, when he wrote thus, on the 23rd September last, to the president of the Complete Suffrage Union, in support of the supply movement:—"There should be reiterated attacks, followed by as frequent divisions, which would show forward before the world the true men and the false men, and would force the doubtful into the ranks of the people's true servants, or to retire from a post which they have not the honesty or the courage to defend."

The army estimates was the chief ground chosen by William Sharman Crawford, on which to contend for the people's rights; the council of the Union were particularly desirous that the contest should be well fought there. They called together a few friends from different parts of the kingdom, to meet in London, on the 31st of January last; and those friends were given to understand, that they would most likely be asked to meet again with others, when the army estimates came on. But while

arrangements were being contemplated for this end, while the council were urging their friends to prepare petitions to the House, and memorials to representatives on the subject, the army estimates were hurried forward with unprecedented speed, and before it was possible to call forth anything like an expression of public opinion against them, they were passed. This haste, on the part of government, will not be misunderstood—it will be hailed as a proof that the supply movement is feared, and will serve as an instructive lesson to the people to be prepared for any such contingency on future occasions.

The practical application of the principle has done great good, and everything continues to strengthen the conviction, that it will at no distant period be instrumental in obtaining for the people permanent deliverance from their present political bondage.

The question now is, what is to be done during the present session, to promote the cause of the people? The council of the Union earnestly recommend that, while no opportunity is lost of opposing supplies yet to be voted, more especially the secret-service money, and appropriate clauses of the army estimates, the attention of the friends of Complete Suffrage should be more immediately directed to the support of a substantive motion, which has been given notice of by the member for Rochdale, and will be introduced soon after Easter, for leave to bring in a bill to provide for the full, fair, and free representation of the people. The best practical steps which, in our judgment, the friends of complete suffrage can take to promote this end, will be to petition parliament, and memorialise their members to give the motion their hearty support. Petitions, to be effectual, must be numerous, and perhaps there is no better mode of obtaining this, than by petitioning as individuals, as communities, and as separate branches of trade and commerce. Every trade, except the monopolist, suffers from class legislation, and if each branch were to state the particular manner in which it is crippled, and the evils resulting therefrom, the necessity of a full, fair, and free representation, would become yet more and more apparent.

To conclude, the justice of your principles is now generally acknowledged, and the necessity of their application is every day becoming more urgent; in proof of this we have only to refer to the proceedings in the House of Commons during the first month of its sitting this session, which comprised a period devoted to actual business, amounting only to twenty-two days, or one hundred and thirty-two hours. During that short time—

It refused to assure her Majesty that, while her faithful Commons would vote such supplies as might be just and necessary, their first duty was to inquire into the grievances of the people, with a view to remove all just causes of complaint, by 285 against 29; majority, 256.

It refused to inquire into a series of grievances, of which the people complained, by 130 against 22; majority, 108.

It refused to postpone the navy estimates till after Easter, by 105 against 11; majority, 94.

It refused to appoint a select committee to inquire into the allegations in numerous petitions presented, complaining that the House did not represent the people, by 91 against 15; majority, 76.

It refused to give an account of the public money paid to certain reporters employed by government to attend the repeal meetings in Ireland, on which the recent trials were founded, by 114 against 78; majority, 36.

It refused to affirm the principle that a standing army in time of peace is unconstitutional, by 87 against 8; majority, 79.

It refused to reduce the forces 20,000 men, by 114 against 12; majority, 102.

It refused to address her Majesty to inquire into the case of the ameer of Scinde, whose territory the British have invaded, by 202 against 68; majority, 134.

And then it passed a vote of thanks to Sir Charles Napier for invading that territory, by 164 against 9; majority, 155.

It refused to consider the expediency of inquiring into the operation of a law by which spectators in the House of Commons are considered to be in the custody of the Sergeant at Arms, and by which the reports in the newspapers involve a breach of privilege, by 84 against 37; majority, 47.

It refused, after nine nights' debate, to go into committee to consider the state of Ireland, by 324 against 225; majority, 99.

It suspended the standing orders to hurry through a bill, which originated with the Duke of Richmond, in the House of Lords, having for its object the protection of a number of aristocratic gamblers, whose violation of the law exposed them to heavy penalties.

It voted the navy estimates, amounting to £6,382,990.

It voted the army estimates, amounting to £5,984,534, and now we are given to feel that "any government, having got the money of the people, can then venture to spurn their complaints and reject their prayers." On behalf of the Council,

JOSEPH STURGE, Chairman.

Birmingham, Third Month 23, 1844.

The Council resolved that copies should be sent to the newspapers, with a respectful request that they would give it publicity; and also to all the correspondents of the Union, and friends of the cause of complete suffrage.

Mr STURGE suggested that forms of petition and memorial should be sent with the address, and the Council expressed an earnest hope that the friends of complete suffrage would lose no time in getting them signed and forwarded, so that Mr Crawford might have every support when he brought forward his motion.

ROCHDALE.—On Tuesday se'nnight Mr Spencer, of Hinton, near Bath, delivered a lecture, at the request of the Complete Suffrage Association, in the Rochdale theatre, on the people's rights, and how to obtain them; Mr James Leach in the chair. After a short speech from the chairman, Mr Spencer came forward and addressed the audience on the above subject in a very clear and effective manner, avoiding any declamation, and was listened to with the greatest attention for upwards of two hours. At the conclusion, Mr Oliver Ormerod, currier, a complete suffragist, moved a vote of thanks to the lecturer, for the clear enunciation he had given of his subject, which was seconded by Miles Hodgson, a shoemaker, one of the chartist leaders, who said he had listened with great pleasure to the rev. gentleman, for he found that his lecture contained the six points of the charter, and, as one of the chartist leaders, he could say that they, as a body, could go with him in all he had said, and would in future give their support to such men as him. The gallery was crowded to suffocation, the boxes were well filled with people of all grades of politics; there were also a few ladies present.

BOLTON.—On Thursday evening Mr Spencer lectured on the same subject, in the Temperance hall, to a crowded audience, over which Mr James Fyfe, baptist minister, presided. Many of the leading reformers of the borough were present, and among them Messrs J. Crook, secretary of the Complete Suffrage Association, T. Cullen, T. Long, John Cunliffe, Jacob Loman, &c. The Bolton Free Press thus comments on the lecture:—"This remarkable man, and pure specimen of the Christian (Mr Spencer), has visited our town this week, and we rejoice, as well for his encouragement as for the success of the measures with which his name is identified, that the result of his visit was of a most gratifying character. In an assembly of more than a thousand persons, it appeared to us that every hand joined in the plaudits at the close of his address. His style is of the persuasive kind; and we could fancy some who heard him, and entertained doubts respecting the expediency of complete suffrage, saying to themselves, 'Almost thou persuadest me to become a complete suffragist.'"

SHEFFIELD.—On Monday evening, in last week, Mr Henry Vincent delivered a lecture on complete suffrage, in the Assembly Room of this town. Owing, however, to the inadequate notice that had been given of the meeting, the attendance was not so numerous as usual. Mr Beale occupied the chair. Mr V.'s address was received with the greatest enthusiasm, and a vote of thanks to him was carried with acclamation.

Mr Henry Vincent, the eloquent champion of the democracy, will visit Newcastle in the first week of April, and deliver lectures on civil and religious freedom, the constitutional history of the British Parliament, and the present state of the nation.—Gateshead Observer.

Our readers will perceive, from an advertisement in another column, that Mr Henry Vincent is about to visit Edinburgh. The Complete Suffragists in the provinces should secure his services without delay.—Edinburgh Chronicle.

EDINBURGH.—A public meeting, called by the council of the Complete Suffrage Union, was held on Thursday evening in Richmond place chapel; J. Dunlop, Esq., of Brockloch, in the chair. The meeting was addressed by the chairman, Rev. Dr Ritchie, Mr Anderson, &c., &c. The report for the past year was read and approved of, and a new committee of management appointed. It was likewise resolved that the members of the Union should be registered anew, and furnished with a card of membership, for which they shall be required to pay threepence, and a contribution varying from a halfpenny to sixpence per week, to be applied to forward the object of securing a full, fair, and free representation of the people.—Ibid.

## General News.

### FOREIGN.

#### FRANCE.

Another grand party contest has taken place in the Chamber of Deputies, from which the ministry have come out signally victorious. The occasion was the Secret Service Money bill. The opposition mustered all their forces, but were defeated, the numbers being, in favour of the measure, 225; against it, 169; majority for ministers, 56. The question was virtually one of confidence in ministers; and the majority is understood to settle the stability of the Soult-Guizot cabinet, at least for this session.

The debate turned upon the whole of the domestic and foreign policy of government; all the old worn-out topics being once more dragged from obscurity to add force and bitterness to the attacks of the opposition. The following extract from the speech of M. Lamartine is, however, worth preserving:—"It was impossible," he said, "that the administration could be otherwise than impotent, conducted, as it was, by a statesman who was formerly a member of the coalition, to-day an ultra-conservative, and who had so often supported and opposed the same measures within the course of a very few years. None of the parties pleased him. The extreme left was too violent; the centre left too easily satisfied; the right centre has too much moderation, and the conservative party was too limited in its views; but, if a party would present itself, which would propose the revision of the laws of September, the alteration of the Fortification bill, the extension of the elective franchise, and the payment of salaries to deputies, it would have his cordial support."

On Tuesday the discussion turned upon the dispute between the university and the clergy, on the

subject of education, and every speaker was unanimous in condemning the conduct of the clergy; no one appearing in their defence. The government was, in some instances, blamed for not adopting more stringent measures against the latter. The chief speakers were M. Isambert, M. Martin, Nord (minister of justice), and M. Dupin, who declared the conduct of the clergy to border on insurrection.

The legitimists have had one of their demonstrations untowardly perverted from its purpose. M. Berryer, the orator of the party, went to Marseilles, to be entertained by his constituents at dinner. At the dinner, M. Berryer made much of Tahiti and some other topics treated in an anti-British way, which succeeded very well; but suddenly the smooth current of unanimous hilarity was interrupted by another sound; the republicans had mustered in great force out of doors, and were serenading the royalist with the *Marseillaise*! Afterwards, they honoured him by performing the Sansculotte melody *Ca ira*. The authorities thought the guest in jeopardy from the increasing vehemence of his serenaders, and they sent a squadron of light horse to protect him and keep order.

In the *Journal des Débats*, of Saturday, there is an article, from which it appears that the French government had determined to take immediate and active steps towards the completion of no less than five great lines of railroad—from Paris to Lyons, from Paris to Bordeaux, through Tours, from Paris to Strasburg, from Paris to Nantes, and from Paris to the frontiers of Belgium, to a branch to Boulogne, and another to Calais. These great undertakings will amount, together, to nearly 1,500 English miles.

The Paris journals, of Saturday, demonstrate the continued increase of crimes of the blackest dye to an extent truly appalling. One paper alone, the *Gazette des Tribunaux*, announces the rejection, by the court of Cassation, of appeals from four several murderers' sentences to death in various parts of France—the murder of a young man by his own father; the murder of an unfortunate waggoner by two robbers; and that of a young man who was shot dead because, as was supposed, he had transferred his addresses from a young person of whom he had been the accepted lover to another.

#### SPAIN.

Queen Christina proceeds leisurely on her way to Madrid. At Valencia she was received by about 200,000 people, and remained there four days. It is not expected she will enter Madrid until the 7th of April.

The butchery of prisoners taken at Alicante still continued. Three civilians were shot on the 12th and 13th, in the neighbourhood of that city, and M. Garrido, secretary to the former political chief, also a prisoner, was, on being identified, to suffer death, because of his having remained at Alicante during the insurrection. General Roncali had mulcted Alicante for a large sum towards the expense the government had been put to by the insurrection, and has borrowed 150,000 francs, which he will probably be in no hurry to pay. General Roncali had commenced the siege of Carthagena.

The Barcelona journal, *La Verdad*, announces that a new conspiracy had been discovered in that city, and that the persons suspected of being engaged in it were tried by a court martial, then sitting in the citadel. A letter from Barcelona states that four had been capitally convicted and shot. Two other executions had taken place at Zamora.

#### AMERICA.

The Sea brings intelligence from New York to the 29th February. The Oregon question was still under discussion in the Senate. The new British minister had also opened the negotiations for the settlement of this subject with Mr Upshur, the secretary of state, just before he was killed: some trifling difficulties had occurred in the preliminaries, but negotiations will be reopened as soon as a new secretary shall be appointed. The account of the dreadful accident on board the Princeton, which was by some supposed to be a hoax, is but too truly confirmed.

The House of Representatives, after canceling on the 28th the twenty-fifth rule, which recorded the refusal of the House to receive any abolition petitions or notices, by a strange act of inconsistency, reinstated the same rule on the roll of the House on the day following. This small step towards liberal action is thus quickly retraced.

The President has appointed, *pro tem.*, the Hon. J. Nelson, attorney-general of the United States, to the office of secretary of state, and Commodore J. Warrington, chief of the bureau of yards and docks, to that of secretary of the navy, vacant by the melancholy accident on board the Princeton; in communicating the event, officially, to the House of Representatives, the President expresses his deep grief and regret, and entirely acquits the officers and crew of the ship from any blame. It is hinted that Mr Upshur's office will probably be offered to Mr Calhoun.

#### PRUSSIA.

The German papers announce that the Prussian government has completed its full adhesion to the Russian by the renewal of the Cartel convention, which stipulates the restitution of all deserters to Russia. The last remnant of the King's popularity in his eastern provinces hung upon his refusal to renew this cartel, a refusal in which he has now for two years persisted, and so strenuously persisted, that Russia was compelled to take the most extraordinary and expensive, though illusory, means of endeavouring to prevent the desertion of its soldiers over the Prussian frontier. The number of the returned exiles who have now been obliged to leave Posen and sell their estates is 28. They were

all picked men, well known for their quiet demeanour and moderation. The number of all other refugees to be removed will amount to considerably more than 1,000.

A letter in the *Times*, dated Posen, March 9th, contains the following gratifying intelligence:—"I hasten to inform you that the rigorous measure respecting the Polish emigrants is, if not revoked, yet essentially modified, inasmuch as their departure is indefinitely adjourned. This decision of our government has caused general joy here, and is a proof that the emigrants have by no means engaged in any sort of intrigues, neither is it true that any of them have already left the province; they are all still here, and bless the sovereign who has not hesitated to withdraw such a resolution as soon as it was found to be unnecessary, and therefore not in harmony with his universally acknowledged elevation of mind."

#### FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

**AN AMERICAN DUEL.**—The American papers give the particulars of a recent duel at Washington, on the 15th February, which has created no small interest in the United States. The principals were two very young men—Mr May, the challenger, and Mr Cochran, who had called his antagonist a coward. Mr May's second was a Mr Pooler, Mr Cochran's a Mr Ash; and Mr Cochran was attended by his surgeon. The combat, it will be seen, was characterised by cold-blooded ferocity. The survivors have fled.

"Articles were drawn up and signed by the seconds, designating the weapons, which were to be rifles, and the distance fifty paces. The mode of proceeding to be with the breech of the rifle to the shoulder, the muzzle down, and to be raised at the word. The words, 'Are you ready, gentlemen?' were then to be asked. Each was to reply 'ready'; and, at the word 'fire!' the muzzles of the rifles were to be raised. They were then to fire between the words, 'one, two, three, stop'—neither before 'one' nor after 'stop.' The seconds arrived about nine o'clock upon the field, when the efforts to effect a reconciliation were renewed, but without effect. The distance was then measured off. All the parties were perfectly cool and composed. Both the principals were members of the temperance society; Cochran was urged, however, to take a glass of liquor, but refused. Both were perfectly composed, each expecting to wound his man, and escape himself unhurt; and each hoped to draw the other's fire—that is, by firing at the word 'one,' to anticipate the other's fire. Mr Cochran, as was his custom, continued to sing little snatches of songs. Each took his place: Mr Ash gave the word, it being his privilege as the second of the challenged party. Mr Cochran threw off his hat. Both replied 'ready,' in a fine clear voice. At the word 'one,' both fired; Mr Cochran a second after Mr May. Mr May remained unhurt. Mr Cochran stood a moment—his rifle dropped from his hands, and he fell heavily and slowly back, partly on his left side, the right leg being thrown over the left." [He died two days after, the ball having pierced his skull.]

**THE LATE CATASTROPHE IN AMERICA.**—The American correspondent of the *Chronicle* gives the following harrowing details of the explosion on board the *Princeton*, on the river Potomac:—

The two daughters of Mr Gardiner, of New York, were both on board, and lamented the death of their father, while Mrs Gilmer, from whom they in vain attempted to keep the dreadful news of the death of her husband, presented truly a spectacle fit to be depicted by a tragedian. There she sat on deck, with her hair disheveled, pale as death, struggling with her feelings, and with the dignity of a woman; her lips quivering, her eyes fixed and upturned, without a tear, only the corners a little moist, soliloquising: "Oh, certainly not! Mr Gilmer cannot be dead! Who would dare to injure him? Yes, O Lord, have mercy on me! O Lord, have mercy on him!" And then, still more apparently calm, and seeming, too, collected, with the furies tearing her heart within, "I beseech ye, gentlemen, to tell me where my husband is! Oh, impossible!—impossible!—and he, can he, can he be dead?—impossible!" Here Mr Senator Rives, of Virginia, drew near. "Come near, Mr Rives," she said, in a soft whisper, which resembled Ophelia's madness, "tell me where my husband is—tell me whether he is dead. Now, certainly, Mr Rives, this is impossible—is it not so?" Mr Rives stood speechless, the tears trickling down his cheeks. "I tell you, Mr Rives, it is impossible," she almost shrieked; and then again moderating her voice, "Now do, Mr Rives, tell his wife whether her husband lives." Here several ladies exclaimed, "O God! grant that she may be able to cry. It would certainly relieve her some. If not, she must die of a broken heart."

**PROFANITY.**—A man named Zimmerman, in Huntingdon, Pa, having a contest with his neighbour about a certain account, exclaimed, "If what I have stated be not true, I hope the Almighty will send me to hell." He had scarcely spoken the words, when he fell down and expired. We have no right to say that the Almighty took him at his word, but certainly it was a terrible thing to be called to appear before his Maker after the utterance of such a prayer. —*Cincinnati Weekly Herald*, Feb. 7, 1844.

**ANOTHER INFERNAL MACHINE.**—We find the following in the *Sentinelle* of Marseilles:—We learn that M. Daniel Borne, a navigator, 23 years of age, has recently invented a warlike machine of such powerful effect that, defended by it, towns can no longer be carried by assault. This machine, truly infernal, of which gunpowder forms no part of its composition, would, it is said, be capable of destroying by an explosion, without noise, all the enemy's troops, at a distance of 1,000 yards from the town to be attacked.

**DUTY ON FRENCH NEWSPAPERS.**—We mentioned before that a proposition, presented to the Chamber of Deputies, for the abolition of the tax upon newspapers, had been authorised by six out of the nine bureaux into which the Chamber is divided, and in the others the majorities in favour of the tax were very small. The abolition of the tax was warmly supported by M. Dupin and M. Lamartine. The duty on French newspapers, of the size of the *Constitutionnel*, is five centimes for each number, and for those of the size of the *Débats* six centimes. Besides

this, every newspaper sent to the provinces pays fourteen francs sixty centimes per annum for postage. The consequence is, that out of the forty-eight francs, which is the price of a daily paper, such as the *Siccle* or *Constitutionnel*, thirty-two francs eighty-five centimes go to the state, and there are only fifteen francs fifteen centimes left for paper, printing, editing, management, and interest on capital. It is not expected that the Cabinet will give up the newspaper tax, notwithstanding the strong party in its favour in the Chamber. It yields a large amount of revenue to the treasury, and this the ministry are unwilling to surrender. The subject will excite a serious discussion in the Chamber.—*Chronicle*.

**A NEW RELIGIOUS SECT.**—The *Courrier Francais* states that "a most extraordinary scene was presented at the closing of M. A. Mickiewitz's course of lectures on the Slave language at the College of France. At the end of his lecture the professor, who asserts that he is the apostle of a new revelation, called upon his auditors, amongst whom figured a number of women who were initiated in this still mysterious doctrine, and with the tone of an inspired prophet he summoned them to declare if they believed in the existence of this revelation. The answer, 'Yes,' was echoed from all parts of the hall with wonderful enthusiasm. There were remarked amongst the women stifled cries, sobs, tears, and all the symptoms of mystic enthusiasm approaching to ecstasy. Those amongst the auditory who were unacquainted with the new doctrine remained in profound amazement at this eccentric communion between the professor and his disciples, or rather between the apostle and his neophytes."

**GREECE.**—Letters from Athens, of the 5th instant, announce that, as far as the National Assembly is concerned, the new Greek constitution is a *fait accompli*. The 107 articles have been voted, and referred to the King for his acceptance; and it is known that he will recommend few alterations.

**INTENDED VISIT OF FATHER MATHEW TO AMERICA.**—It is reported that this distinguished philanthropist has signified his intention to visit this country in June next. A free passage has been very generously offered him by Messrs Grinnell, Minturn, and Co., proprietors of a London and Liverpool line of packet ships, which he has accepted.—*New York Evangelist*.

**DEATH OF THE KING OF SWEDEN.**—Charles John, King of Sweden, formerly Marshal Bernadotte, and the only one of Napoleon's generals who retained the royal dignity to which they were raised under their great chief, expired at Stockholm, on the 8th inst., in the 81st year of his age. He was the son of an advocate at Pau, in the south of France, and rose by his bravery, military skill, and republican zeal, from the rank of a private soldier to be one of the leading generals of his country. By the influence of Napoleon, and his own great capacity, he was elected in 1810 Crown Prince of Sweden; but he soon forsook the alliance of the great conqueror, whose arrogance he could not brook, and contributed to his downfall. His talents and policy, and, above all, his subservience to Russia, preserved him his crown; and he has at length, after a peaceful reign, bequeathed it to his son, who ascends the throne under the title of Oscar II. We take the following extract from a short sketch of his life which appeared in the *Sun*:—

When the disasters in Russia took place, and the finest army that the world had ever known was destroyed root and branch, less, however, by the troops of Alexander than the avenging elements of heaven, Bernadotte, after a brief season of irresolution, joined the Allies, who were then just preparing to enter on that tremendous campaign which, at the battle of Leipzig, destroyed for ever the fortunes of Napoleon. His movements, however, were at first tardy and reluctant, and were regarded by some of the allied powers not without distrust; but at Leipzig he came resolutely into action, and contributed not a little to the success of that bloody day. On the termination of the great European struggle, he returned to his adopted country, to which, in consideration of his services, the Allies had annexed Norway; and devoted his whole time—for, by all accounts, he was a just and beneficent monarch—to the welfare of his subjects. Of all Napoleon's marshals, none maintained a higher character for justice, moderation, and humanity, than Bernadotte. He was not a dashing, brilliant soldier, and nothing more—like Murat, Lannes, or Ney; but was a skilful and wary strategist, endowed with great foresight, and as sagacious in his military conceptions as he was resolute in the execution of them. Though the Emperor never liked him, for he was not sufficiently unscrupulous as a partisan to suit his views, yet he did justice to his worth, and placed confidence in his integrity.

The sentence of death on John L. Brown, for aiding a slave to escape, is creating a deep sensation in a portion (as it should throughout the whole) of the United States. A public meeting was about to be held on the subject at New Garden, Indiana. Why not at New York, Boston, and Philadelphia? —*Anti-Slavery Reporter*.

#### DOMESTIC.

##### METROPOLITAN.

**LEAGUE MEETING AT COVENT GARDEN.**—At the weekly meeting of the League, held at Covent Garden theatre on Wednesday evening, the Earl of Radnor presided. Without any comparison this was not only the most interesting but the most instructive meeting yet held to advance the great cause of free trade. It realised that which has long been our devout belief of what must take place, before there was much probability of our principles being adopted—an open and perfect union, upon intelligible and common grounds, of all the great interests in the country. Lord Radnor as a landowner, as one whose sole interest consisted in land, laid no

claim to being actuated by any motives of peculiar disinterestedness in advocating a total repeal of these laws—he did so as an act of justice and sound policy; he did so as affording the best guarantee for the safety and advancement of the interests of land; which he contended could only prosper permanently in proportion as the whole community was prosperous; he could not recognise the possibility of any benefit attaching to any class that was not in perfect accordance with the best interests of all others. But important as were the views so ably maintained by Lord Radnor in the branch of this subject peculiarly belonging to his high position, the evidence and testimony of Mr Lattimore and Mr Hunt, as tenant farmers of great reputation, as to the practical effects of the corn laws on their condition, and that of the farm labourers, was not less important. They were both agreed as to the effect of protection in degrading their class—in rendering the pursuit generally unprofitable and uncertain—detering capital and skill from being embarked—reducing the labourer to a state bordering on starvation, for the want of a sufficient demand for labour. And they both bore witness, from practical experience, that with such a general improvement in cultivation as already exists in some cases, and which, they believe, would result in all cases under the stimulant of competition consequent on a free trade—and with protection, not against their customers, the consumers, by a corn law, but for property invested in farms, by leases—that the land of this country would afford employment for three labourers for every one that it does now—that the produce of the soil would be double the present quantity, and that thus wages might be improved, prices even lowered, while farmers' profits, and rent also, would be better than at this time. Now, this is no theory; it is the evidence of the best practical men in this pursuit, and, what is more, it is sustained by every instance where it has been tried—whether in an isolated way, as by Lord Ducie, or on whole districts, as in the East Lothians and Berwickshire. Mr Cobden very appropriately concluded the proceedings of the evening, and summed up the evidence, taking occasion to explain, in a clear and convincing manner, some of the apparent inconsistencies of that close identity of interest which exists between the producer and consumer; and in a very happy manner showing the vicious consequences of legislative interference, in sustaining antiquated prejudices and deterring improvements. He showed forcibly that the maintenance of the corn law was the great object why landlords were determined to retain a political control over the franchise of their tenants; that to preserve that control they would not grant leases; and that the want of leases is one of the main causes of agricultural imbecility: that the whole system was one vicious and absurd circle.—*Economist*. [The meeting was fully sustained in point of number.] We take the following extract from the conclusion of Mr Cobden's speech, as bearing on the suffrage question:—

It had been asked, why did not the League work for organic changes in the institutions of the country? He pointed to America, with her universal suffrage and her vote by ballot, and he saw that they had not got rid of slavery, nor had they adopted free-trade [cheers]. Mr M'Duffie and his friends had as arduous a task in advocating free-trade in America, as the League had in this old and encumbered country. There were the Americans, with piles of beef, and pork, and bread actually rotting away in their stores, whilst England had her piles of manufactures in her warehouses, and yet no free exchange between the two countries [cheers]. Neither was permitted to relieve the other.

**CENTRAL AGRICULTURAL PROTECTION SOCIETY.**—A meeting of the supporters of this society was held at the residence of the Duke of Richmond, 51, Portland place, on Wednesday last, over which that nobleman presided. There were about fifty noblemen and gentlemen present, and some half-dozen tenant farmers. Reporters for the press were refused admission. We perceive, by the Essex papers, that grants to a large amount (upwards of £500) have been made to the central society by two of the local associations. This is, doubtless, a usual course of proceeding, and further corroborates our assertion that the anti-league movement was really set on foot with a view to secure a landlord majority at the next general election.

**GENERAL EDUCATION.**—A public meeting of the friends of education, in connexion with the congregational body, was held in Islington chapel, on Wednesday evening last, Charles Hindley, Esq., M.P., in the chair. The meeting was addressed by the following ministers:—Dr Reed, and Messrs A. Wells, T. Lewis, Blackburn, Yockney, and A. J. Morris. Resolutions were passed, affirming the importance of education, pledging the meeting to assist in raising the contemplated £250,000, and appointing a committee to carry out the object. Mr Knox stated that £3,750 altogether had been contributed towards the general fund by the Islington district, of which £1,250 had not been before announced. £1,500 had been contributed by two individuals. A considerable addition to the above sum was expected on a canvass of the district. An interesting meeting was held at Woodbridge chapel, Clerkenwell green, on Thursday evening, for the purpose of raising funds towards the erection of two school rooms adjoining the chapel, to be used, during the week, as British schools, and for the accommodation of the children of the Sunday school on the Lord's day. Benjamin Riley, Esq., presided. The chairman had promised £50, and other friends £10 and £5 each, making together £122; the estimated cost was £300. A resolution was carried, pledging the meeting to raise the money required in a month. In a few minutes after the meeting closed £30 was promised.

**MEETING OF BANK PROPRIETORS.**—The meeting of the bank proprietors, held on Thursday, was one of the shortest that has been known for many years past, lasting for scarcely more than twenty minutes. The dividend declared was £3 10s. per cent. for the half-year (from which, of course, the income tax is to be deducted), and to make up the £509,355 which is required to pay it, £10,603 is deducted from the "rest," leaving £3,159,966. The wish was expressed at the meeting, that Mr Cotton, the present governor, should be continued in office another year. This is on account of the negotiations with the government respecting the charter, as they began under the present governor.

**THE HANGING MANIA.**—At an inquest held before Mr T. Wakley, M.P., a few days since, on the body of a boy who had, it was supposed, unintentionally hung himself, a juror expressed his astonishment that, as deceased's feet must have touched the ground, he could not save himself. The coroner remarked that there was no accounting for the frequent occurrence of such cases, and proceeded to detail the following remarkable instances which had come under his notice in his official capacity:—

One was the case of a man who was decidedly insane. He effected suicide by tearing a sheet into long strips, and having tied one end to the side of the bed-post, he made a noose at the other end which was so low that he had to lie down to put his head into it, and when discovered his nose was absolutely but very little more than an inch from the ground. Another instance was that of a man on whom he (Mr Wakley) had held an inquest at Hampstead. This man first attempted to drown himself in a pond, but, finding he could not do it, got out, and sat for some time by the side of the pond, contemplating some other mode of suicide. He at length tied his handkerchief to the branches of two alder trees, then knelt down and laid his neck across the handkerchief, and in that position was found dead. A third most extraordinary case was that of a lady residing at Islington, who, having exhibited a determination to destroy herself, was watched by attendants night and day, but notwithstanding these precautions, this lady, whilst in bed in the presence of persons who were watching her motion, succeeded in strangling herself with her capstrings, and had been dead some hours when her attendants thought her to be asleep. Medical science had as yet been unable to develop accurately the causes which induced persons to adopt this means of committing suicide.

**THE WILL FORGERIES.**—Lydia Sanders, the wife of Sanders, and the fictitious Emma Slack, has, as well as her husband, been apprehended, having been arrested at a shop in Edinburgh, on Tuesday. It was generally expected that the whole of the prisoners would, on Saturday, have been brought up at the Mansion house, and committed for trial. Mrs Sanders had been taken ill at Edinburgh, and was unable to be removed to London. It was, therefore, arranged that the other parties, Barber, Fletcher, Mrs Dorey, and Griffin, should be remanded until Friday next. The *Times* gives the following information in connexion with the case:—

In the case of the will forgeries, we are given to understand, so determined were those engaged for the prosecution to discover and apprehend the parties implicated, that in the early stage, before the officers could be put upon the track, all persons in any way connected with Mr and Mrs Sanders, either in London or the country, were so closely watched, that they could not leave their homes, or attempt any communication, personally or by letter, without the knowledge of the solicitors for the prosecution, and that steam, railway, and animal speed, was commanded to be at the control of those employed in the great plan of detection; that not a day elapsed without producing one or more communications from Bristol, or elsewhere, respecting the result of every movement; and those who knew the two Forresters might have seen them day by day attending the offices of the solicitors, for the purpose of reporting from time to time the progress of the investigations, and receiving fresh instructions.

On Monday, Lydia Sanders was brought up before the Lord Mayor, at the Mansion house, and, after examination, remanded to appear with the other prisoners on Friday.

**INCOME OF STREET SWEEPERS.**—In the hearing of a case which came before one of the metropolitan police courts last week, in which Dennis Coughlan, a crossing sweeper, was charged by the authorities of St Margaret's parish with refusing to support his wife and child, who thereby became chargeable to that parish, it came out that the accused earned sometimes so much as nine shillings per day at a crossing in Bridge street, Westminster, immediately adjacent to the law courts and the houses of parliament. The good season, he said, only continued six months in the year, and in very wet weather he obtained no more than from 1s. 6d. to 2s. a day. He subsequently agreed to allow his wife 2s. per week.

#### PROVINCIAL.

**THE ANTI-CORN-LAW AGITATION.**—A great League meeting was held at the Music hall, Leeds, on Wednesday last—J. G. Marshall, Esq., in the chair—principally to hear Mr W. J. Fox. After speeches from the chairman and Mr Plint, Mr Fox addressed the meeting at considerable length, with his accustomed ability, eliciting great applause. Mr Smith, of Sheffield, then attempted to address the meeting; but he was opposed by the chartists who were in the room, and a scene of great uproar, which lasted for some time, ensued. Mr Kidd, described as a chartist lecturer, made himself conspicuous in the tumult, and peace and order were only restored by the chairman causing Mr Kidd to be ejected. The remainder of the proceedings were carried peaceably to a close. A meeting of anti-corn-law deputies from the several parliamentary boroughs in the West Riding was held at Leeds, on Wednesday. J. G. Marshall, Esq., presided. Deputies were present from Bradford, Huddersfield, Halifax, and other boroughs in the riding. The meeting sat for four hours; and resolved that memorials should immediately be got

up, requesting the members of the respective boroughs to vote for Mr Villiers' motion. A deputation, consisting of Colonel Thompson, Mr Plint, and other gentlemen, have been addressing crowded audiences at Barnard Castle, Stockton, Hartlepool, Middlesbro', and other places in the north.

**PARLIAMENTARY VACANCIES.**—The parliamentary seats for Hastings and Christchurch are now vacant, in consequence of the Right Hon. Joseph Planta and Sir George Henry Rose, their respective members, having accepted the Chiltern Hundreds. Mr Musgrove Briscoe, of Coghurst, came forward for Hastings, in the tory interest; Mr R. R. Moore is the anti-corn-law candidate. At Christchurch, there is no hope of a successful opposition on the part of the free traders.

A public meeting was held in Leicester on Wednesday evening (the mayor in the chair), "to promote the national testimonial to Rowland Hill, the author of the penny-postage plan."

**THE MILL-OWNERS AND THE FACTORIES BILL.**—A meeting of mill-owners was held on Thursday last, at Leeds, at which a unanimous opinion was given that the present hours of labour in the flax and woollen mills of this town were not injurious or oppressive to the workpeople, and that the proposed restriction of the hours of working to ten per day would inevitably produce a great decline in wages, and a very serious loss to the manufacturer. A memorial on the subject was adopted, and signed by 46 firms, and a deputation appointed to wait upon Sir R. Peel with the same. The spinners and powerloom cloth manufacturers in Manchester, and it may also be said of the districts adjacent, in which spinning and manufacturing is carried on, are from some causes or other all but completely apathetic respecting this bill; nor has the majority for the ten hours clause tended in the least to remove this lethargic feeling, nor do we hear of any note of preparation for any public meeting, either of the masters or operatives.

**STATE OF IRELAND.—MEMORIAL TO THE QUEEN.**—The memorial to the Queen on the alarming state of Ireland, passed at the great meeting held in the Free Trade hall, the Mayor in the chair, on Thursday evening, February 29, has received no less than 40,124 signatures. The memorial was despatched to London for presentation to her Majesty on Thursday.—*Manchester Times*.

**EARLY CLOSING OF SHOPS.**—We learn from the *Hants Independent*, that, with one or two exceptions, the whole of the respectable shopkeepers of Southampton have consented to close their shops at eight o'clock throughout the summer.

**ANOTHER DELINQUENT CLERGYMAN.**—The *Worcester Chronicle* records another case, in which a clergyman has been guilty of criminal conduct. A commission under the Church Discipline act sat last week, to inquire into certain charges made against the Rev. John Jones, curate of that place. Mr Jones, who is a married man, with a grown-up family, was accused of the crime of adultery; having been in the habit of visiting a prostitute at Birmingham, and making excursions with her to Stratford. After hearing a part only of the evidence, the commissioners were of opinion that a *prima facie* case had been made out. Mr Jones has received an inhibition from the Lord Bishop, to prevent his performing the duties of the church.

**THE COLLIERS' STRIKE.**—The coal masters in the southern part of the Potteries, and several of the proprietors in the northern part, still refuse acquiescence in the terms proposed by the men, or rather by the Miners' Union on their behalf, of 3s. for a day of eight hours. The proposition has the effect of lowering wages in many cases, and is generally understood to be a step in the attempt to obtain 4s. for the same quantity of work.—*Staffordshire Mercury*.

#### THE ASSIZES.

**THE MURDER AT BRIGHTON.**—John Lawrence, who so recently murdered the superintendent of police at Brighton, was tried on Wednesday at Lewes, for that offence, before Lord Denman. Having been found guilty, the sentence of death was passed upon him. During his trial he was in a state of great excitement, and when sentence was passed upon him he fainted and became insensible.

On Friday last George Lowther and Matthew Pearson took their trial at York for the murder of John Moffat, the head gamekeeper to the Marquis of Normanby—the first as principal, and the second as aiding and abetting. The jury found Lowther guilty, and acquitted Pearson. The judge, in passing sentence of death upon the wretched man, said that he had been convicted on the clearest testimony of depriving a fellow-creature of life, and that he could not hold out to him the slightest hope of a relaxation of the law in his case. Pearson was then called upon, and admonished by the learned judge.

A most extraordinary case was tried on the midland circuit. The prisoner was William Cottingham, and he was charged with having maliciously attempted to suffocate Elizabeth Todd, a married woman. The accused had twice tied a handkerchief round the neck of the poor woman, with a view to strangle her, on a very cold night last month; failing in which, the brute tied her hands behind her; he then tied a string round her body, and fastened her to a tree, having her legs also tied above the ankle—saying as he left, "— thee, take that for what thou hast done to me." The parties, it seems, had been on familiar terms, and jealousy was the prisoner's motive for what he had done. At the time this outrage was committed, Mrs Todd was far advanced in pregnancy. The prisoner was convicted of an aggravated assault, and was sentenced to three years' imprisonment, with hard labour.

**EXTREME PUNISHMENT.**—At the Norfolk assizes before Lord Abinger, Gifford White, aged 18, was

indicted for unlawfully, knowingly, and feloniously, sending to one Isaac Ilett a letter, threatening to burn him and the other farmers of the parish of Bluntisham in their beds, and also to burn their property. The prisoner pleaded "Guilty." The following is a copy of the letter:—

"TO THE FARMERS.

"We are determined to set fire to the whole of this place if you don't set us to work, and burn you in your beds if there is not an alteration. What do you think the young men are to do if you don't set them to work? They must do something. The fact is, we cannot go any longer. We must commit robbery and every thing that is contrary to your wish. I am,

"AN ENEMY."

Lord Abinger sentenced the prisoner to transportation for life.

At Haverfordwest assizes, on the 13th inst, William Walters and David Vaughan were convicted of having taken part in a Rebecca riot, at Prendergast turnpike, in Pembrokeshire, on the 25th August last. They were sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment. In twenty-six other cases the accused parties were simply held to bail; the Crown proceeding no further.

At Shrewsbury, on Monday week, Joseph Willetts, aged seventeen, was convicted of having set fire to a barn and four stacks belonging to his master, Mr Joseph Morris, of Halesowen. Willetts confessed that he had set fire to the barn, but made a fruitless attempt to persuade the jury that he had done it accidentally. He was sentenced to transportation for life.

**AN ENGLISH JURYMEN.**—At the Gloucestershire adjourned sessions last week, a girl named Caroline Adams was tried for stealing a pint of brandy, a bottle, and other articles, the property of her master, Mr Thomas, and was acquitted. After the verdict was given the prosecutor began collecting his property together, and missed the bottle of brandy; search was made for it round the table, when some one present said he saw one of the jurymen with it in his hand drinking the brandy. Mr Carter, counsel for the prosecution, then stated that fact publicly to the chairman, and applied to have it restored to the prosecutor. The chairman said to the jury, "Is that true, gentlemen? I hope you are not guilty of such conduct as that;" notwithstanding which, another of the jury instantly put the bottle to his mouth and swallowed the remainder of the brandy, nearly a quarter of a pint. The chairman and Mr Carter remonstrated, and said such conduct was extremely disgraceful, particularly sitting as he did in a public court of justice, and exercising the office of an English jurymen.—*Gloucester Chronicle*.

**THE GAME LAWS.**—What is the chief inducement to poaching? The following report from a local paper of a proceeding at a petty sessions in Bedfordshire will supply the best answer:—

"Joseph Curtis, of Woolton, was charged with trespassing in pursuit of game in Kempston wood. Defendant pleaded guilty, and said he could get no work, adding, 'If you can't get work, and are starving, and nobody will help you, you must be expected to do such things.' Fined £2, costs 17s. 6d.; in default of payment committed for six weeks to hard labour."

Poverty, induced by uncertain and irregular employment, is in most cases the cause which makes rural labourers poachers; but the mere existence of game preserves is, in itself, an enormous evil. They injure the farmers, who readily wink when they dare at "offences against the game laws" committed by their labourers; and they offer an irresistible inducement to starving or ill-paid workmen to take the first step in crime.—*Hull Advertiser*.

**RURAL POLICE IN SUFFOLK.**—At the West Suffolk quarter sessions, held at Bury on Saturday last, Lord Euston moved a resolution for establishing a rural police, which, after a long discussion, was rejected by 20 to 18.

**DREADFUL MURDER AT WEDNESBURY.**—The town and neighbourhood of Wednesbury, Staffordshire, have, during the past week, been in a state of considerable excitement in consequence of a most diabolical murder, at the residence of Mr John Crowther, who lives in a large house at Oaksall end, on Saturday morning, the 16th instant. It appears that about nine o'clock on Saturday morning the servant man left home with a horse and cart, and Mr Crowther also left in about half an hour afterwards, as was customary with both of them on the Saturday morning. The household servant, Ann Griffiths, about 38 years of age, was then alone in the house. In about three quarters of an hour the butcher called and rang the bell, but was not answered. He called again in about two hours, but with no better result. About two o'clock Mr Crowther returned home, and discovered the unfortunate woman lying on the floor in the washhouse, covered with blood, and quite dead, her throat having been cut in the most frightful manner, and on her head there were several distinct wounds, which alone were sufficient to cause death. A discharged male servant, named William Beard, accused also of robbing the house, is in custody, under suspicion of having been the murderer. An inquest on the body of the murdered woman was held on Wednesday, and by adjournment on Saturday, at which Beard was brought up in custody. The material points of the evidence will be found in the summing up of the coroner. The points against the prisoner are:—His being seen in the neighbourhood of Mr Crowther's house just previous to that gentleman leaving home—his boots being traced to the front hall door, and afterwards traced from the back lawn door to the canal bank, and thence to Leebrook—his footsteps close to the engine-house where the clothes were found—his possession of money—his being seen with a bundle—his clothes and boots being covered with blood, &c. The jury, after an absence of ten minutes, returned a verdict of "Wilful murder" against William Beard, and the coroner

accordingly committed him to take his trial at the next Stafford assizes. The facts upon which the verdict was found, were brought to light through the indefatigable exertions of Mr Hatton, Colonel Hogg, and other officers of the county police.

**FIRES AT LIVERPOOL.**—This "city of fires," as it has not inappropriately been termed, has again been the scene of conflagration. During the past week two extensive fires have taken place; one on the premises of Mr Robert Clay, chemist and druggist, Bold street, by which property to the amount of £1200 was destroyed, and another in Messrs Pringle and Harvey's rice-mill, Soho street, the contents of which were almost wholly destroyed. The proprietors are, however, insured to the amount of £5,800. The inmates of Mr Clay's house escaped by jumping out of a window, but two of them, Mr Keane and a servant maid, were much injured. The origin of both of the fires was unknown.

**THE PROGRESS OF INCENDIARISM.**—Since the observations of Sir James Graham and Lord Henniker, in the House of Commons, on Friday night last, relative to the spread of incendiary in Suffolk, we have received accounts of some very alarming fires in this county. On Saturday night we witnessed an awful conflagration at Capel, which was visible from Ipswich, and on the previous evening a fire occurred at Hitcham. A fact which we have just learnt, in connexion with the last-named fire, goes some way to explain the cause of these lamentable events, and fully sustains the views so well laid before the grand jury by the chairman of the quarter session, in the shirehall in this town, a few days ago. This moment no less than forty labourers are without employment in the parish of Hitcham.—*Ipswich Express.*

**COACH ROBBERY OF 1500 SOVEREIGNS.**—The *De-fiance*, Oxford coach, was last week robbed of the above sum, which had been forwarded from a banking house west of Temple bar, London, to the Old bank, Oxford. A passenger, who it is supposed stole the money, has got clear off; another, supposed to be a confederate, has been taken into custody.

#### IRELAND.

**PEEL'S IRISH POLICY.**—The *Dublin Evening Mail* says:—"We have an appalling communication to make to our readers and to the country—one resting upon such authority that its truth admits of neither question nor doubt." This "appalling" statement is thus given, in the form of a letter "from a private correspondent:"—

"You may rest assured that the Premier himself has addressed a letter to the Irish Executive upon the subject of national education, in which he distinctly declares that no future patronage is to be bestowed on clergymen of the established church in Ireland, not merely who are inimical to the system of national education, but who will not undertake to place all schools in the parishes or dioceses in which they may be promoted under the immediate management of Dr Murray's board." The *Standard* says there is not a word of truth in the rumour.

**IMPRISONMENT OF MR O'CONNELL.**—It has been proposed, in the event of Mr O'Connell's incarceration, that Whit Monday, the 27th of May, should be fixed upon as a day of general prayer and humiliation—that the people should on that day assemble in their places of worship to implore the protection of Heaven for their country, and the removal of the evils that afflict her. It has been also suggested that the liberals and Roman Catholics throughout Christendom should be invited to participate in this object.

**MR O'CONNELL'S OVATION.**—A grand banquet in honour of the Liberator and his co-conspirators is to take place at Cork, on Easter Monday, April 8th, on which occasion W. S. O'Brien, Esq., will preside. It is expected to be a grand demonstration. A public entertainment to Mr O'Connell, upon a splendid scale, is likely to take place at Dublin on Wednesday, April 10th.

**ASSIZE INTELLIGENCE.**—The calendar of the Nenagh division of Tipperary presents a fearful catalogue of crime, there being no less than eighty-nine persons in the gaol, the great majority charged with offences against the person, and no less than thirty being charged with murder, or conspiracy to murder.

**THE EXTERMINATING SYSTEM.**—We have received intelligence of a case of extermination in the county of Monaghan, the facts of which require no comment. A poor man, after having expended upwards of £300 in the improvement of his holding, was ejected. He had been offered a considerable sum for his interest in the place before the expiration of his lease; but the agent of the estate sent for the intended purchaser, and assured him he would turn him out the moment the lease expired, should he buy in opposition to his will. The occupant was consequently deprived of his right to dispose of his property by the threat of the agent. The tenant and his wife are both old—the latter was confined, it was thought, to her death-bed, when the sheriff was directed to evict them. After visiting the place, he remonstrated with the agent on the cruelty of un-housing them at that time, as the weather was extremely severe; but he was directed to proceed with his duty at once.—*Nation.*

**POLICE SPIES.**—At the Clonmel assizes, Mr Doheny applied to the court on behalf of a person named Moran, who was in custody on a charge of sedition. Clerk of the Crown: He is not to be tried; the Crown has given up the prosecution. Mr Doheny: Really, my lord, this is a most unheard-of proceeding. A man is confined for a period of six or seven months, charged with a novel species of sedition, and he is then informed that there is no prosecution against him. The police go about dressed as ballad singers. They go to an unfortunate printer, give him a copy of a song to print, and when they thus entrap him, they seize upon and

drag him as a felon to prison. It may be unpleasant to be obliged to mention such circumstances, but I owe a duty to my client, and it is fit the public should know the kind of business the police are employed in.

**THE "NO-COMPROMISE" PARTY.**—The repeal press is speaking out against any compromise of O'Connell with government or with the whigs. The *Dublin Freeman* of Thursday morning says—

But compromise there can be none. The chief traverser has defied their worst. They admit that he has cut off all retreat by "destroying the bridge behind him." There can be no surrender, except on the part of the government. The men whom they would victimise have no guilt to confess, no apology to make. Were they to bind themselves now to refrain from the deeds for which they are prosecuted, they would be false to their own principles and pledges, traitors to their country, and they would lay suicidal hands on their public character. On such terms, the pardon of the government would wither in a moment the laurels of half a century.

That the historic glory of O'Connell should be tarnished now, with the goal of victory in view, by such men and such means, would be a mournful catastrophe for Ireland. No; he and his brother traversers will nobly stand the coming test. It is always said that great men, after a long life of honourable labour in the public cause, betray a vacillation at its close, which renders their fame equivocal, and when they are gone, leaves their enemies a pretext for detraction. With our leader there shall be no such pretext. To suffer magnanimously and perseveringly for well-doing inspires a martyr consciousness which, while it greatly elevates our own souls, will thrill all faithful hearts in every age with sympathy, and send the electric fire of freedom down to the latest posterity. For this the "conspirators" are prepared.

The provincial repeal organs, for the most part, speak with scorn of any further alliance with the whigs.

#### SCOTLAND.

**GLASGOW SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF YOUNG FEMALES, &c.**—On Friday last, a meeting of gentlemen friendly to the objects of the above institution, and to the promotion of morality, was held in the Trades' hall, for the purpose of taking steps towards the accomplishment of the important purposes for which the association was generally formed. Sir James Campbell, president, having been called to the chair, Mr Greig, formerly one of the secretaries of the parent society in London, but now of the Glasgow Western Academy, narrated the circumstances connected with the formation of the society, and read the draft of a constitution prepared by the interim committee. The objects of the institution, as laid down in this document, were—to induce young females, who had strayed from the paths of virtue, to take advantage of the means now existing, or which may yet be provided, for their reformation; to call public attention to the dreadful extent of the immorality which at present prevails; to procure information in reference to the evil; and to request ministers of the gospel, &c., to direct the attention of their people to the matter in such way as they may deem best fitted to promote the suppression of the evil; to secure the punishment of all parties engaged in the work of prostitution; to procure, if possible, legislation for the better punishment of those offending parties; and to provoke the magistrates and the police to a strict enforcement of the laws, &c. Addresses were then delivered, and resolutions moved and seconded, by Dr Wardlaw, Dr Symington, Mr Anderson, Dr Bates, Mr Brown, &c. Apologies for non-attendance were received from Dr Smyth, Dr Heugh, and Dr Black, all of them sympathising warmly in the objects of the meeting.

**SINGULAR PRESERVATION OF A CHILD.**—On Tuesday last, while a child was amusing itself on the brink of the stream that drives Barns Lint mill, Girvan, it toppled off the bank, and, unobserved, was carried along by the current to the sluice, where its tiny person stuck at the aperture, preventing the passage of the water. The miller, finding his mill going lazily, fancied he had scrimped her of water, and going out, raised the sluice, which he had no sooner done, than the body of the child, till then unseen, was noticed to pass under it, and to float towards the water-wheel, where destruction seemed impending, and where rescue was out of the question, from the impossibility of stopping the mill in time. The child, in a second or two, had passed under the wheel, and almost as quickly afterwards was pounced upon by the miller, who carried it into his house apparently lifeless. The "hearty miller," however, was not to be so easily baffled in his humane exertions. Well applied thong and spur brought Dr Robertson almost immediately, who followed up the miller's rubbing with hot flannels by other restoratives; and eventually the child looked up and smiled, and may live to bless them both.—*Ayr Advertiser.*

#### Miscellaneous.

**A CABINET MINISTER.**—In a county which has acquired much reputation for the agricultural skill of its farmers, there was lately advertised one of the Ministers' farms to be let by proposal. There were various offerers, but one higher than the others was admitted to a special interview with the landlord's agent, who, being satisfied with the means of the offerer, and the respectability of his character, seemed on the point of deciding in his favour, until the following and concluding conversation occurred:—Agent: "Of what politics are you? Offerer: A liberal. Agent: What religious persuasion? Offerer: A dissenter. Agent: But the tenant of this farm must both go to church and poll with his landlord. Offerer: Then, Sir, I am not prepared, besides a higher rent than any one has offered, to sacrifice my

religious and political principles, merely to satisfy your master's lust for power: good morning, Sir." It is more than probable that such occurrences as the above are not uncommon; and, would persons to whom they become known only declare them through the medium of the public press, much might be done to counteract the effects of this exercise of illegitimate influence on the part of landlords.

The American dwarf, General Tom Thumb, accompanied by his guardian, Mr P. T. Barnum, of New York, had the honour of attending at Buckingham palace on Saturday evening, when the general exhibited his clever imitations of Napoleon, &c., which elicited the approbation of her Majesty and the royal circle.

**NUMBER OF NEWSPAPERS PASSING THROUGH THE GENERAL POST-OFFICE.**—Upon every Saturday evening there are collected in London, by omnibuses specially employed for that purpose, from the offices of the various publishers and newsvenders, not less than 20,000 newspapers. By the mail carts from the branch offices at Lombard street, Charing cross, Old Cavendish street, the Borough, and numerous receiving houses, 26,500; by the letter carriers while ringing bells in the streets, 7,000; at the window of the portico of the chief office in St Martin's-le-Grand, before 6 o'clock a. m. (the hour at which the box closes), 45,000; after that hour until half past 7 a. m., 1,500; with which  $\frac{1}{4}$ d. each is charged as a "late fee." The total number of newspapers passing through the office on Saturday night alone, from the sources above enumerated, is not less than 100,000. Taking into account the quantity despatched by morning mails, and passing through London daily, the average per week may be fairly set down at 600,000; which number being multiplied by 52 gives, as passing through the General post office in the metropolis alone, the astonishing number of 31,200,000 newspapers annually.

**DEVICES ON SEALS.**—The *Globe* states that, after some conflicting decisions, the Surveyors of Taxes have obtained the opinion of the judges that every device engraved on a seal, although not exhibiting the family arms or crest, or accompanied by a shield or heraldic colours, is an "armorial bearing, or ensign," or crest, within the meaning of the act, subjecting the user to taxation. The public are therefore cautioned to use no seal having any figure or fancy device engraved on it, hereafter, unless they are willing to be accounted arms-bearers, and to pay for that distinction.

**ADVANCED INSTRUCTION FOR YOUNG LADIES.**—The ladies of Hackney (as we find from a prospectus which has been put into our hands), feeling the necessity of fixing a higher standard of education for their own sex, have been strenuously exerting themselves to establish a sort of college for young ladies, where they may continue to pursue their studies, under the direction of eminent professors, up to a much more advanced period than has usually been allowed them. Similar institutions have been formed in Scotland and America, and have been attended with very great success. We understand that two classes are already formed, and attended by thirty-four pupils. Being desirous of aiding our fair friends in their work, and feeling sure that the names of the professors are such as will inspire confidence in the minds of the public, we subjoin them. Mathematics and classics, Mr Robertson, of King's college, Cambridge; English literature, Miss Goss, author of "The Philanthropist," &c.; French, M. Delille, professor of the French language in Christ's hospital, and French examiner in University college; drawing, Mr G. R. Lewis, author of the drawings from Dr Dibdin's "Decameron," "Picturesque Tour," &c. The professors of music, German, and Italian, have not yet been appointed. We observe on the committee the names of the ladies of the Rev. Drs Cox and Reed.—*Patriot.*

**THE NOXIOUS INFLUENCE OF SMOKE.**—In the voluminous report on smoke, lately made to the House of Commons, by a select committee, some curious facts are mentioned; for example, Mr Chandler, an extensive camellia grower at Wandsworth, states, that on account of the great increase of chimneys from manufactories in that vicinity, plants which formerly might be handled without any bad effect, now soil the hands to a great extent. Among other plants which formerly flourished but will not now grow in the neighbourhood of the metropolis, are China roses, *rhododendron hirsutum*, *rhododendron virginicum*, and many others of the prettiest varieties now quite extinct.

**A SALUTARY LESSON.**—It appears that on Prince Albert's embarking (during his tour to the Isle of Wight) at Gosport, in the admiral's barge, a young man stepped into the barge also, and was brought to Cowes in the Black Eagle, where he again embarked in the barge for the shore with the suite; that when near East Cowes the Prince inquired who he was, when, all being ignorant, he was asked by the officer in command, who had previously thought he was one of the suite; the stranger offered his card, and said he was a reporter for the press, when he was handed into the custody of two of the boat's crew. He attempted to land at East Cowes, but was prevented, and was taken on board the Black Eagle in one of the boats which had followed the admiral's barge. The intrusive reporter was not, it seems, allowed to go on board the steamer, the sailors jumping on board and leaving him in the boat, which was dropped astern by the painter. He remained in the boat, exposed to a strong north-easter, till the return of the Prince. He was then towed up to Portsmouth, the sea flying over him all the way up; and instead of being handed over to the police (as the Prince considered he had been sufficiently punished), the sailors were directed to put him on shore, which they did,

but in Jack's own way, which was a long way out of the intruder's road, as they rowed him about five miles up the river, and dropped him on the mud. It appears that the towing of the unfortunate reporter astern of the yacht was not ordered by the Prince, but was the act of the officer to whom he had been given in charge. Whatever may be said as to the severity of this treatment, there is but little doubt that it will prove a salutary check to that "mobbing of the press," by which royalty is robbed of a blessing at the command of the meanest subject of the realm—the privacy of retirement.

**STOVES IN BEDROOMS.**—We mention the following circumstance, which occurred about two weeks ago, in the hope that it may act as a warning to others. Two servant women, in the family of a respectable gentleman, in the neighbourhood of Glasgow, went to bed in his laundry, having previously put a fire on the stove, and shut the door, which they fastened inside. The apartment was rendered so close that the vapour generated in the stove found no adequate egress, and the consequence was, that the women before morning were completely insensible. At their usual time of rising they did not appear according to custom, and on listening at the door of the laundry, the members of the family heard sounds inside which indicated the ordinary symptoms of suffocation. The door was broken open, and, as already stated, the two women were found in a state of insensibility. Medical aid was procured with all possible despatch, and after the proper remedies were applied, both of them recovered; but about a week elapsed before one of them was restored to her wonted health. Had a very short period longer occurred before relief was given, in all probability both would have fallen victims to their folly. Ignorant persons should be carefully warned against shutting themselves up in bedrooms, where fires have been lighted, without great attention being paid to ventilation.—*Scottish Guardian*.

O'Connor and his colleagues, of the "Executive of the National Charter Association," have recently issued their quarterly account, which presents evidence of a large numerical falling off. The number of individuals (according to the *Northern Star*) who signed the national petition for the "People's charter" was 3,317,752. Number of members of the present association, 11,338; of whom 1,467 have paid their monthly subscriptions.

**RAILWAY INTELLIGENCE.**—A general expectation gains ground amongst railway directors and speculators, that the present session of parliament will relieve third class carriages from the tax of five per cent., and will regulate and enforce the principle on which railways ought to be assessed to the relief of the poor.—*Herald*.

**THE LAW OF GOD AND THE LAW OF MAN.**—Mr Turner's resolution on the subject of dueling was opposed by Sir Robert Peel on the ground that "it was not the business of the legislature to determine what were, or what were not, the divine commands." A fair reason enough, whatever we may say of its application. But how comes it, then, that we find Sir Robert Peel the supporter of a state church?—*Advertiser*.

**THE GRIEVANCES OF WALES.**—The long-expected report of the commissioners of inquiry for South Wales, has at length made its appearance, with a somewhat indigestible mass of evidence, amounting to nearly 500 pages, appendant thereto. The *Times* of Thursday prints the report entire. It occupies eight and a half columns, and the following is the short indication and summary of its contents given in a leading article of the same paper:—

"A very ill-regulated system of turnpike trusts, originating in improvident acts of parliament, carried on in local mismanagement, and terminating in an odious and unjust pressure upon the farmer; an increase in the value of the tithes from the operation of the late commutation, acting upon a period of unusual distress; a poverty-stricken church, rich impropiators, and all but universal dissent; a poor law, the expense of which 'in many parishes exceeds that which was paid before the introduction of the new act,' administered 'in some unions' by guardians who are altogether indisposed to carry out the principles of the law,' and in some cases 'actually paid out of the highway rates or other available funds for their attendance at the board;' a strong opinion that the salaried officers under that law are much overpaid; 'objections yet louder and more universal' against the notorious bastardy clauses, which 'have altogether failed of that effect which sanguine persons calculated they might produce on the caution or moral feelings of the weaker sex,' nay, more, appear to have 'tended to increase demoralisation in the female part of the community,' to have rendered unchastity habitual, and induced to a frightful extent the desertion of illegitimate children by their mothers; distrust of, and alienation from, the magistracy; disgust at the domination and the profits of magistrates' clerks; and, finally, dissatisfaction with the whole administration of local rates."

**HOW TO WRITE CLEARLY AND FORCIBLY.**—A man fully possessed of his subject, and confident of his cause, may almost always write with vigour and effect, if he can get over the temptation of writing finely, and really confine himself to the strong and clear exposition of the matter he has to bring forward. Half of the affectation and offensive pretension we meet with in authors arises from a want of matter—and the other half from a paltry ambition of being eloquent and ingenious out of place.—*Lord Jeffrey*.

**SOUTHEY ON STYLE.**—Ours is a noble language, a beautiful language. I can tolerate a Germanism for family sake; but he who uses a Latin or a French phrase where a pure old English word does as well, ought to be hung, drawn, and quartered for high treason against his mother-tongue.

## Religious Intelligence.

**ALBANY STREET CHAPEL, EDINBURGH.**—The congregational church in this place having invited Mr J. R. Campbell, of Montrose, to take the pastoral office among them, and Mr C. having accepted the call, his ordination took place on Thursday, 29th Feb., on which interesting occasion the following gentlemen were present at the services—Dr Wardlaw, of Glasgow; Dr Paterson, Messrs W. L. Alexander, C. H. Bateman, G. D. Cullen, J. Machray, A. T. Gowan, of Dalkeith; W. Knowles, of Linlithgow; —Thomson, of Haddington; and R. Lang, of Chorley; also Messrs William Innes, James Clark, Andrew Arthur, and Jonathan Watson (baptists), Dr Brown, and Dr Adam Thomson, of the united secession. Dr Paterson presided. After praise, Mr Machray offered up the introductory prayer. Mr Cullen put the usual questions, to which Mr Campbell made a very suitable reply. After which Mr Cullen offered up the ordination prayer. Dr Wardlaw delivered the charge to the pastor, and Mr Alexander addressed the church; the services being concluded by Mr Gowan's engaging in prayer. In the evening, a social meeting of the members of the church and congregation and friends, was held in the Waterloo rooms—Mr Jack, one of the deacons of the church, in the chair—when very excellent and appropriate addresses were delivered by the chairman, Mr J. R. Campbell, Dr Wardlaw, Messrs Alexander, Bateman, Jonathan Watson, and Dr Adam Thomson. There were upwards of 500 present, and the various services were highly interesting.

**GREENWICH.**—The ceremony of laying the first stone of the new baptist chapel, Lewisham road, Greenwich, took place on Wednesday last. A school room, which has hitherto been the only erection on the ground, was crowded. After singing, Mr John Pulling offered an introductory prayer. The chair was taken by J. L. Phillips, Esq., of Melksham, Wilts, who stated that he attended to lay the first stone of the new chapel at the request of his friend and pastor, Mr Russell, whom he was sorry to lose. Mr Joshua Russell read a paper, from which it appeared that the expenses of the ground and chapel would be £1,742, and that a friend had given £500. Mr William Chapman, minister of the tabernacle, Greenwich, then implored the divine benediction on the proceeding, on the church and the pastor elect, and on the churches and pastors in the neighbourhood. The plan and elevation of the intended chapel were produced, and gave great and general satisfaction. The friends then left the school room, and assembled on the ground, when Mr Phillips, assisted by the architect, J. Barnett, Esq., laid the first stone, with the usual formalities. Tea was provided at Mr Wm. Chapman's school room, which was quite full, and all the arrangements excellent. Afterwards a public meeting was held in the chapel, at which D. Wire, Esq., presided. Among the ministers who addressed the meeting were Dr Steane, Mr H. B. Jeula, and Mr J. Aldis.

**HARWICH.**—LAUNCH OF THE "JOHN WILLIAMS."—Amidst the many hundreds of yessels that are now in the market for sale, none appeared so suitable for the juvenile missionary ship as the one recently built at the royal naval yard in this place, and which was launched on Wednesday last. Her structure is so durable and neat, and her size so exact and convenient, that had she been laid down with the view of her following in the track of the "Triton" and "Camden," she could not have answered the purpose better. It was very gratifying to witness the great interest manifested by the juvenile portion of the inhabitants of Harwich; they seemed delighted spectators, and were evidently pleased that they had been permitted to add their humble mite towards the purchase of a vessel destined to engage in the hallowed work of carrying the truths of God to the distant regions of the world. As she went off the cradle, the children of the independent congregation, on one side, commenced singing a beautiful hymn; and, on the other side, the Wesleyan Sunday school children sung, "And the work of the Lord shall revive." And thus, amidst the prayers and best wishes of the assembled spectators, was the "John Williams" launched upon the bosom of the great waters, and may she and all who navigate and cross the mighty deep in her be especially favoured by Him "who holdeth the winds in his fists, and the waters in the hollow of his hands."—*Ipswich Express*.

**BASINGSTOKE.**—THE VOLUNTARY PRINCIPLE.—On Thursday, March 14th, two very superior sermons were preached in the congregational chapel, Basingstoke, by Dr James Bennett, of London. A collection was made from the congregation (which is neither large nor rich) for the liquidation of a debt (increased by the enlargement of the chapel and the erection of a school room). The collection amounted to £85; nearly £40 had been previously collected during the year by some young friends towards the same object, making upwards of £120.

**BAPTIST CHAPEL, LEEDS.**—On Wednesday last, this unique place of worship was opened, when three sermons were preached—in the morning, by Mr J. Ackworth, M.A., president of Horton college; in the afternoon, by Mr Pottinger, of Bradford; and in the evening, by Mr J. E. Giles, of Leeds. On the following morning, a public breakfast took place in the school room of the West Parade chapel, which had been kindly lent for the purpose; after which, several members and friends addressed the meeting; and in the evening, a sermon was preached by Mr James Bromley, in the new chapel. Collections were made, amounting altogether to £208 8s. 3d.

**SALENDINE NOOK, YORK.**—Mr Thomas Lomas, of Horton college, Bradford, has accepted the pastorate of the baptist church at Salendine Nook, near Huddersfield, in compliance with a cordial and pressing invitation from that church, and purposes commencing his stated labours amongst them on the first Lord's day in May.

**HASTINGS.**—A public meeting was held in the baptist chapel, on Thursday evening, the 21st inst., on the occasion of Mr J. M. Cramp's removal from this place to take the presidency of the baptist college, Montreal, Lower Canada. About 350 persons took tea in the lecture room. Among the ministers who took part in the services were Messrs E. Davies of Lewes, A. Smith of Rye, Ellon, Jennings, Wiseman, Pledger, Harris, and Pywell.

**DORKING, SURREY.**—The annual services on behalf of the London Missionary society were commenced on Sunday, the 17th inst. Mr Richard Knill preached in the morning and evening. It appears that the young people of the congregation had raised £12 towards the new missionary ship, and that £22 4s. had been subscribed altogether by them during the past year. On the following day, a public meeting was held, over which Mr Knill presided. Among the ministers who addressed the meeting, were—Mr Porter, of Godalming; Mr Connebee, pastor of the chapel; and Messrs Brake, Freeman, Richard, and Archer, from London. In advocating the cause of the society, Mr Freeman instanced, as a proof of success, the Navigators' islands, where, twelve or fourteen years ago, idolatry was universal, but where the whole of the population (50,000) had now renounced their idol worship; that 2,000 of them were church members, and 2,000 stand proposed candidates. The collections were liberal.

### BIRTH.

March 18, at 20, St James's place, Mrs JOHN HULLAN, of a son.

### MARRIAGES.

March 14, at Ebenezer chapel, Shadwell, by Mr C. J. Hyatt, minister, Mr SMITH, of Limehouse, to SUSANNAH MARY, fourth daughter of the late Joseph William NEWMAN, Esq., of Mile end.

March 14, at the independent chapel, Newport Pagnell, by the venerable pastor, Mr Bull, Mr E. HUMPHREY, draper, of Nuneaton, to Miss BRAL, of Newport.

March 18, at Sion chapel, Bradford, Yorkshire, Mr THOMAS TAYLOR, woolsorter, of Manningham, to HANNAH, daughter of Mr Joseph ARROYD, farmer, of Thornton.

March 19, at the independent chapel, King street, Portsea, by the pastor, Mr Thomas Cousins, Mr JOHN BIGWOOD, of Portsea, to MARTHA, youngest daughter of Mr James COOTES, of Southsea.

March 21, at Union chapel, Lewisham, by Mr T. Timpson, Mr ALFRED SHEPHERD RAY, dissenting minister, of Sydenham, to Miss ANN FROST, eldest daughter of Mr Frost, of Euston square.

March 21, at Maize hill chapel, Greenwich, by the pastor, Mr H. B. Jeula, Mr ALEXANDER STORAN, of Lambeth, to Miss SUSANNAH M'AVENEY, of Greenwich.

March 21, at Argyle chapel, Bath, by the pastor, Mr W. Jay, Mr THOMAS CASTLER, to Mrs SARAH WELCH, both of that city.

March 22, at Hope chapel, Liverpool street, Salford, Mr EDWIN EATON, provision dealer, Whitecross bank, to Miss MARY DAVIES, of Salford.

March 22, at Salem chapel, York, Mr JOHN ARUNDEL, independent minister, of London, to Mrs BURKE, widow of the late Edmund Burke, Esq., of Englecliffe, near Yarm.

March 22, at the baptist chapel, Mill bay, Folkestone, by Mr D. Perkins, minister of the place, Mr THOMAS WRIGHT, to Miss LOUISA JONES, both of Folkestone.

March 23, at Denmark chapel, Camberwell, by Dr Steane, Mr GEORGE MOORE, of West Brixton, to Miss MATILDA HALL, of Trinity street, Borough.

March 23, by license, at Rehoboth chapel, Shadwell, by Mr Samuel Milner, minister, Mr WILLIAM THORNBURN, of King David lane, Shadwell, to Miss CATHERINE GILL, of same place.

### DEATHS.

Lately, THOMAS CHAWNER, Esq., of Chendale, Staffordshire. He was brother of Mrs Williams, widow of the late excellent missionary, who was inhumanly murdered in one of the South Sea Islands.

March 12, after a long illness, CLAUD MIDDLETON, the beloved son of William and Mary HOWITT, a boy of extraordinary promise.

March 14, at the house of her son-in-law, Mr W. H. Bond, R.N., Falmouth, Mrs TRESTRAIL, aged 84 years, mother of Mr F. Trestrail, of Cork. One of the oldest members of the baptist society in that town. She adorned her Christian profession by the unvarying consistency of her conduct, and manifested the kindness of her heart by the readiness with which she relieved the necessities of the impoverished and distressed.

March 17, MARY the wife of Peter BOOTH, Esq., surgeon, of Chapel-en-le-Frith, in the 59th year of her age.

March 18, in Rowland Hill's almshouses, Wotton-under-Edge, in the 79th year of her age, MARY, relict of the late Mr Richard EVANS, of that town, and the oldest member of the Tabernacle connexion, which she had belonged to for nearly sixty years. She had known many reverses in life, and trials; and was a great sufferer the last few weeks of her illness, but her end was peace.

March 19, at York house, Twickenham, the Earl of LONS-DALE, the earliest friend of Mr Pitt, the possessor of an immense fortune, an accomplished scholar, and endowed with an intellect singularly vigorous, even to the last.

March 22, at her residence, in York street, St James's, the Countess of UXBRIDGE, daughter of the late Right Hon. Sir C. Bagot.

March 22, at Trinity Chapel house, Poplar, ELIZABETH, the beloved wife of Mr George SMITH, independent minister, aged 39 years. She fell asleep in Jesus, exclaiming, "For me to live is Christ, to die is gain."

March 23, in Raquet court, Fleet street, aged 31 years, Miss ELLEN HOLLIER BUTTON, youngest daughter of Mr S. J. But- ton, and grand-daughter of the late Mr William Butten, dissenting minister.

## Trade and Commerce.

### LONDON GAZETTE.

Friday, March 22.

The following buildings are certified as places duly registered for solemnising marriages, pursuant to the 6th and 7th William IV. cap. 85:—

Baptist chapel, Collumpton, Devonshire.  
Catholic chapel, Loughborough, Leicestershire.  
Cooper Street chapel, Manchester.

### BANKRUPTS.

CHAPMAN, WILLIAM, 22, York place, New road, Marylebone, surgeon, April 2, May 3: solicitors, Messrs Rickards and Walker, Lincoln's Inn fields.

CLARK, THEODORE FREDERICK, Liverpool, draper, April 3, 23: solicitors, Messrs Reed and Shaw, Friday street, London, and Messrs Sale and Worthington, Manchester.



